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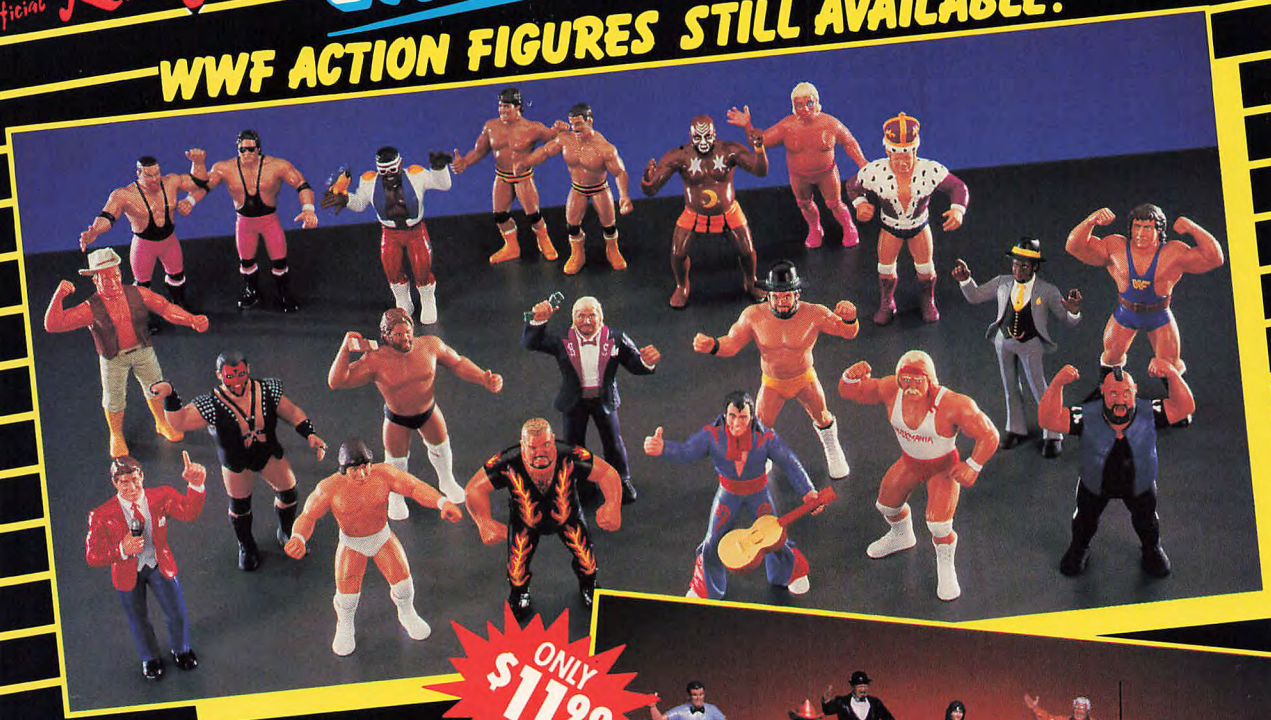

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MAILBAG

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FLAIR'S NOT FAIR

When Ric Flair received the "Wrestler of the Decade" award, I was ecstatic. I really admired him and I thought he was the only person worthy of the award. When Flair, along with Arn and Ole Anderson, asked Sting to become the fourth Horseman, it made me very happy.

The Horsemen's challenge to Sting at Clash of the Champions X led to Sting's career-threatening injury. Reader Chella Herndon says she'll never trust Ric Flair again.

Then, at Clash of the Champions X, Ric, Arn, and Ole attacked Sting. That showed Flair's true colors. Flair is the scum of the earth. He doesn't deserve the "Wrestler of the Decade" award. He ought to get out of the NWA while he can.

CHELLA HERNDON
Dumas, TX

BAN MANAGERS

I'm writing in response to the "Point/Counterpoint" about managers at the Royal Rumble in the May 1990 issue. Unlike most fans, who will side with one writer or the other, I disagree with both Craig Peters and Andy Rodriguez. I think managers should be banned from ringside in *all* matches, not just the Royal Rumble.

I'm not saying managers should not be allowed to appear with their wrestlers. But when they do come to ringside, they should be situated in such a way that they can't interfere, like in a cage above the ring.

When managers or wrestlers get involved in mischief, they should be fined half their pay and be suspended for one year.

ERIC THORNTON
Canyonville, OR

PIPER PHOTOS

I loved your special photo section on Roddy Piper ("His Career In Photos: The Perils Of Piper!" May 1990). It was especially interesting to get those glimpses of Roddy's early career. I never knew he wrestled Bob Backlund for the WWF title, and I never knew he lost a hair vs. hair match.

Jimmy Lennon cut Roddy Piper's hair after Piper lost a hair match to Chavo Guerrero in 1976. Reader Sheila Nolan enjoyed our section featuring Piper's early career.

One thing you should also have done is a page with pictures of Roddy in the movies he's been in. That would give a more rounded view of this very popular personality.

SHEILA NOLAN
San Bernardino, CA

DUMB RULE

An open letter to AWA President Joe Blanchard:

The dumbest thing in AWA history

is the new rule you made banning all maneuvers from the top rope. Don't you see that, by doing this, you're helping The Destruction Crew keep their belts? Whenever they get into trouble, they will go to the top turnbuckle to save their title!

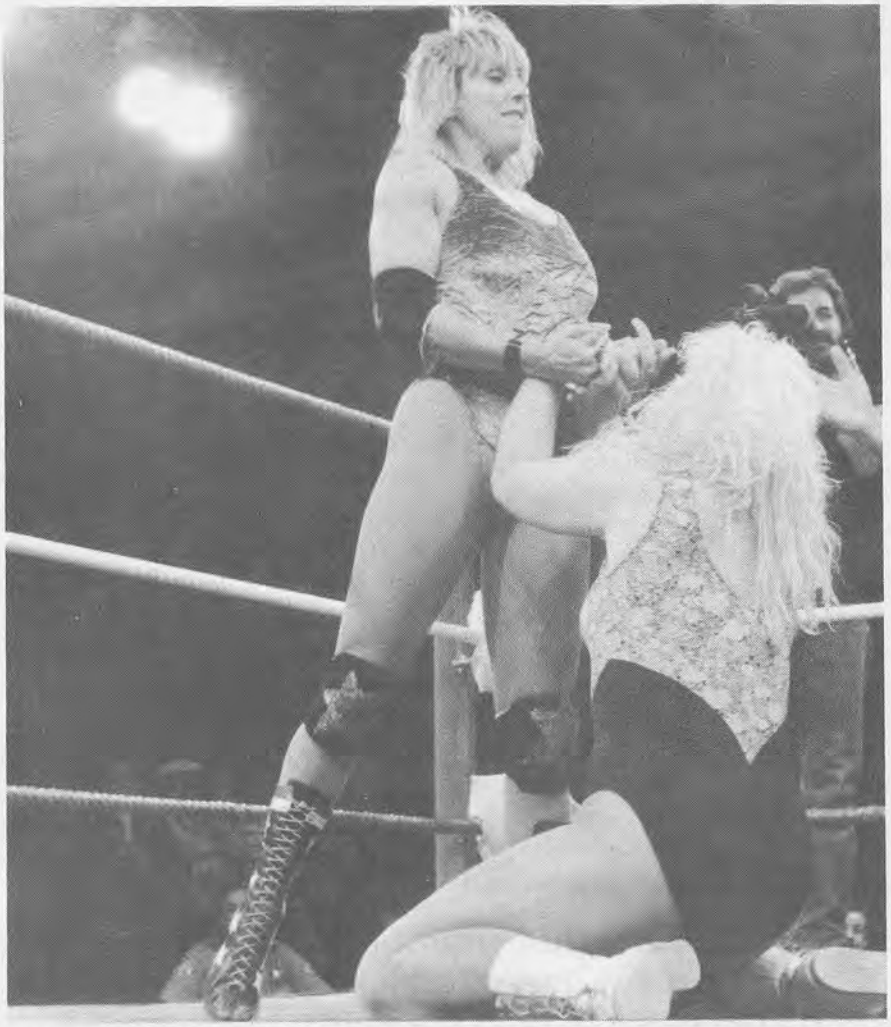
Next time you make new rules . . . *think!*

SANDY ROBINSON
Philadelphia

BRUNO-ZBYSZKO: 1990

When are Bruno Sammartino and Larry Zbyszko going to stop their ridiculous feud and go on to other things? ("The Zbyszko-Sammartino Feud Rages Again!" May 1990) For 10 years, all you hear about from these two, especially Larry, is how they still haven't forgotten about what happened in 1980 when they had their big feud.

Bruno Sammartino should let his son David fight his own battles against the challenge of Larry Zbyszko, in reader Joseph Seau's view.



Susan Sexton forces Lelani Kai to her knees. Reader Jason Thorunburg is happy to see the LPWA bringing women's wrestling to greater attention.

Well, guys, I bet everybody wishes you'd forget about the past and move on already. Zbyszko should concentrate on regaining the AWA World title, and Bruno should concentrate on whatever he does, and let his son David carry on the feud with Zbyszko—on *David's* terms, not his father's.

JOSEPH SEAU
Minot, ND

If Larry Zbyszko thinks he's going to put David Sammartino out of wrestling, he is sadly mistaken. Larry's not even the champion anymore, so now he has even less right to brag about how great he is. Like a true Sammartino, David will shut Zbyszko's mouth once and for all.

NATALIE ALBRIGHT
Kenosha, WI

THE LADIES' SPORT

I'm glad to see there's room for and interest in a fine organization like the LPWA. For too long, fine female grapplers have been ignored or relegated to prelim status on the men's cards. Now they have their own place to shine. The LPWA has given women like Misty Blue Simmes and Susan

(Continued on page 48)

THE TATTLER

HOLLYWOOD, CA: ABC Entertainment, a division of the ABC television network, announced that a TV series starring WWF wrestler Roddy Piper and WWF color commentator Jesse Ventura is being considered for the upcoming fall season.

The show, entitled *Tag Team*, is one of 15 one-hour dramas being presented to advertisers, said Janice Gretemeyer, ABC's director of press relations. The premise of the show is that Piper and Ventura are banned from wrestling and use their ring skills to fight crime.

Tag Team would be co-produced by Indieprod/Disney and aired at 8 p.m. on a day to be determined. No episodes have been shot, although several scenes for the series were filmed during recent WWF cards in California. The ABC fall schedule will be announced in May.

JESSE VENTURA

Both Piper and Ventura have experience in front of the camera in movies and television. Piper's credits include *They Live*, which was a box-office hit in 1988, *Hell Comes To Frogtown*, and *Buy & Cell*. Ventura has appeared in *The Predator* and *The Running Man*, both starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, as well as several independent productions.

It is not known how the participation of Piper and Ventura in the series will affect their wrestling activities, particularly if the program is picked up for the regular weekly schedule. WWF officials, however, are hoping that Piper and Ventura will be able to balance both careers.

"We see no reason why they shouldn't be able to film the series and continue with wrestling," said a WWF source. "Ventura's not quite as active as Piper, since his duties are limited to announcing. Piper would obviously have to cut back a bit from his full-time wrestling schedule, but we're sure that we'd be able to accommodate his needs."

Another WWF star has also returned to acting. Tom "Tiny" Lister Jr., who formerly was known as Zeus when he wrestled in several tag

(Continued on page 52)

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STRAIGHT talk with EDDIE ELLNER

The **WrestleMania** File: Be impressed by the lengths **Hulk Hogan** and **The Ultimate Warrior** went to in order to defeat one another, but don't let the *length* of the match dazzle you. Though the 22:51 match was the longest either man had wrestled in a long, long time, the two powerhouses spent plenty of time clenched and resting.

But that, I must admit, is a petty snipe at what history will regard as an incredible emotion-soaked title match. WrestleMania main events have usually gone the way of Super Bowls: much ballyhoo over nothing. The Hogan-Warrior battle was inspired grappling. No one sitting with me expected Warrior to actually *pin* Hogan. Indeed, after Hogan subdued the Warrior and set the challenger up for his infamous legdrop, you could hear Hogan's fans breathe a collective sigh of relief—then fall into shock as Warrior moved, Hogan crash-landed, and Warrior executed a splash and covered him for the pin.

If only for its stunning, surprising finish, Warrior's victory qualifies as one of sport's most glorious moments. However, as exciting as it was, Warrior's win must settle for number six in my rankings of the greatest moments in WrestleMania history. Herewith, the Top Five:

THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR VS. HULK HOGAN

1—**King Kong Bundy's** exalted body-slam of **Little Beaver** during WrestleMania III.

GORILLA MONSOON

2—**Gorilla Monsoon** issuing his trademark, "We've got a capacity crowd here tonight," in reference to the barely half-filled Rosemont Horizon during WrestleMania II.

3—**The British Bulldogs'** WrestleMania II conquest of **Greg Valentine** & **Brutus Beefcake** in which they won the WWF World tag title and proved that, when healthy, they were the best tag team in the world.

4—The **Randy Savage-Rick Steamboat** Intercontinental title bout during WrestleMania III, where Savage—even in defeat—demonstrated that no matter how ridiculous his costumes or how absurd his attitude or how ugly his company may become, he was, for a long while, rightfully considered one of the sport's greatest wrestlers.

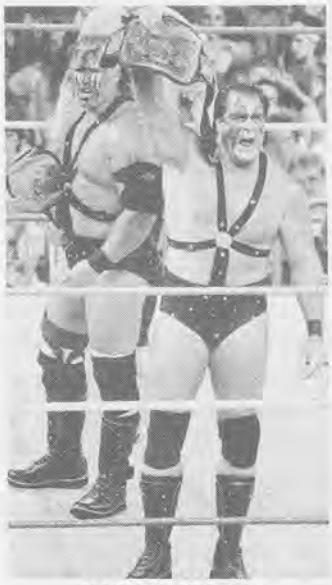
5—**Andre the Giant Idiot** finally undressed for the simpleminded, phlegmatic, paycheck-groveling charlatan he is against **Hulk Hogan** in WrestleMania III.

GEORGE STEINBRENNER

From the One's A Bald-Faced Liar, The Other's A Convicted One Dept.: The day after WrestleMania VI, **George Steinbrenner** was still fuming over Hogan's loss. "Guys like the 'Hulkster' shouldn't lose," the Boss, a friend of Hogan's, cried. "And he can't lose unless they cheat. And they cheat-

ed." Those familiar with the churlish, ill-tempered, second-guessing Gestapo tactics of the **New York Yankee** owner know that if Steinbrenner owned the WWF, he'd simply fire the Warrior and "hire" Hogan back as champion.

Could **Tony Garea** and **Dean Ho**, WWF tag team champions in 1973-74, defeat **Ax** and **Smash**? How about **Haystacks Calhoun** and **Chief Jay Strongbow**? If you ask



DEMOLITION

me, **Demolition**'s latest title reign will continue a tradition of mediocre WWF tag team champions that was but momentarily interrupted by **The British Bulldogs**.

Contest idea: Promote your own dream match. My first main event would feature Andre vs. **Sapphire** in a no-smells-barred match. Ringside at WrestleMania VI was good friend **Jeff (Prime Cut) Goldberg**, who has worked in his father's slaughterhouse since childhood. "I'd sooner suck pig entrails out of a gas mask than slow dance with Sapphire," Goldberg reported. Andre's stench is the stuff of legend; his sweat is registered with the police department as a lethal weapon. The two of them shoved together in a small ring would give environmentalists heart failure.

In its WrestleMania VI edition, ***Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly***, the fan favorite's leading periodical, gives a cute little "yay" to Andre for beating up **Bobby Heenan** and **Haku** after **The Colossal Connection** lost their tag team belts.

BOBBY HEENAN

"Could Andre be turning good again?" the rag asks hopefully. Remember, Andre *has* turned—and, like spoiled milk, he can never be the same. Rather than massaging him with false compliments, pro wrestling should encourage him to end the embarrassment and retire while he might still retain a smidgen of dignity.

●

If the NWA doesn't recognize his potential, **Scott Steiner** will likely become the next WWF superstar. Of course, should Steiner make the mistake of jumping federations, he can join ex-NWA luminaries **Ronnie Garvin**, **Roddy Piper**, **Terry Taylor**, **The Barbarian**, **Ted DiBiase**, **Greg Valentine**, **Jake Roberts**, and **Dusty Rhodes** at their weekly career-counseling sessions.

SCOTT STEINER

Did **Butch Reed's** recent pinfall victory over **Road Warrior Hawk** occur in this universe or an alternative one?

Maybe it was a **Bizarro** Road Warrior.

It was reported that **Abdullah the Butcher** lost more than his WWC Universal title after **Carlos Colon** pinned him in a recent match in San Juan. Deep head wounds caused Abdullah to surrender nearly a full pint of blood and required the Sudanese stitchmeister to visit a local hospital for 18 laces. The pint brings Abdullah's career grand total of lost plasma to 11

ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER

quarts—or enough blood to fill the veins of two African elephants.

Spring. A time for fertility, planting, growth . . . and "Straight Talk's" seasonal follicle count. I am happy to report hair growing wildly everywhere—except atop **Bill Apter's** head. After unusual tufts of curly hair started sprouting on Bill's back, "Straight Talk" hired a genealogist to examine Bill's family tree. Did Bill's mother really date **George Steele**? Was Bill's paternal grandmother a plaything of **Bruiser Brody's** father? Answers next month in "Straight Talk," pro wrestling's original scandal sheet.

Till next month, I leave you with a few words from the new WWF champ: *"Ergh arrgh ahhhh ah ahhhh!"*

*[Editor's note: The views of Eddie Ellner are his and his alone, and are not those of **Sports Review Wrestling** in general, or its editors in particular.]* □

LOCKER ROOM Confidential

with Bill Apter

In this 1986 match, Kevin Von Erich locks his scissorshold on Dingo Warrior, who later became WWF World champion The Ultimate Warrior. Warrior's win didn't surprise Kevin's brother Kerry.

OUT OF THE locker rooms and onto the telephone, my second home. The day after WrestleMania VI, the wrestling world was abuzz with talk about The Ultimate Warrior's victory over Hulk Hogan for the WWF World title.

And, of course, the most shocking part of the win was that it was a *clean* pin, the first Hogan has suffered since he entered the WWF in late 1983.

But not everybody was shocked by the Warrior's win. My day on the phone took me on a whirlwind tour of the United States and interviews with many wrestlers who, at one time or another, were touched by the Warrior's career. Here's a sampling of their reactions:

Kerry Von Erich. Before coming to the WWF, the Warrior wrestled in Texas. Although Kerry was the star of that territory, he realized even then that the Warrior was headed for greatness.

"How can I be surprised?" Kerry said. "First of all, in the WWF, power means a lot more than skill. The Warrior never could wrestle much, but he's one of the strongest men I've ever seen. I never wrestled him, although I could see the headlines now: 'Modern-Day Warrior' vs. Ultimate Warrior.

"Personally, I think Hogan's had enough of the whole scene. He's been champion for so long, he doesn't have the killer instinct anymore. The Warrior really has that instinct, always did, though I'm not sure he always will."

Sting. The Warrior's original partner. They broke into the sport together and, although they've been long parted, people still think of Sting and the Warrior together.

"You know, I'm really happy for him," Sting said. "I wish I could have won a world title first, but to me, the NWA World title is the only one worth having, anyway. Still, beating Hogan was a great feat for the Warrior, it's something he used to always talk about.

"For the Warrior, the WWF is the place to be. For me, it's the NWA, where wrestling skill means something. But take nothing away from the Warrior. He did something special. I'm proud to say I was once his partner."

Eddie Gilbert. "Hot Stuff" managed the Warrior in the UWF, but a disagreement between the two abruptly ended their relationship; the Warrior walked out on Gilbert and Sting.

"From a personal standpoint, it wouldn't have bothered me at all if he just fell on his face once he left me. Of course, that didn't happen, and I guess there's no way it ever could. It's not that he's a great wrestler, it's just that he's so

(Continued on page 61)

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The Inquiring Reporter

No one knows wrestling better than the fans. Because of this, we're now giving these experts a forum for their views and opinions. Each month, we'll ask a controversial question and have the fans answer—no matter what those answers might be!

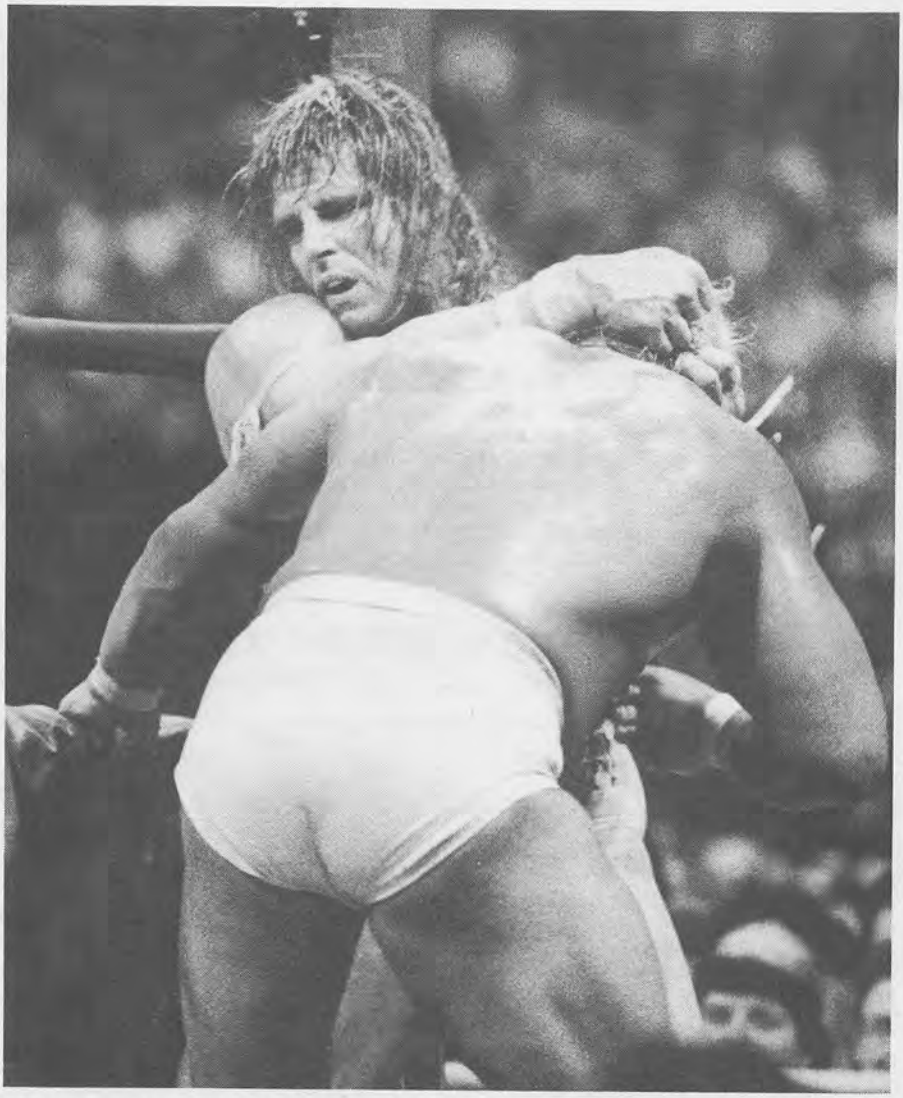
THE QUESTION:
"Should The Ultimate Warrior be allowed to keep both the WWF World and Intercontinental titles?"

THE ANSWERS:
Rita Perkins, Washington, NJ: "Why not? He beat Hulk Hogan for the World title cleanly. He proved, in my eyes at least, that he's the best wrestler in the world. If any man in the sport can hold and successfully defend two belts at once, it's The Ultimate Warrior. It would really be exciting trying to see if he can do it. I believe he could."

Bobby Jackson, New Bern, NC: "The only fair thing to do is put the Intercontinental title up in a tournament. Defending the World title is a tough task that Warrior should devote all his energy to. If he defends both belts at once, there's a good danger he'll lose them both more quickly than you would think. Being World champion should be enough to satisfy him."

Bill Trent, Knoxville, TN: "I've always expected WWF President Jack Tunney to call a tournament for the Intercontinental title. It would be unprecedented if Warrior were allowed to keep both

(Continued on page 58)



The Ultimate Warrior's victory over Hulk Hogan at WrestleMania raises an important question: Can Warrior defend two major singles titles at the same time?

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TOP WRESTLE
YOUR QUESTION

Do you have a question you want answered by 10 of wrestling's top stars? Each month, *Sports Review Wrestling* will publish a fan's "Question of the Month," which will be answered by the sport's top superstars. If you have a question you would like to see answered, send it to:

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THE "QUESTION OF THE MONTH" IS:

"What's the best way to intimidate your opponent?"

Submitted by: Mark Stroming Verona, NJ

KERRY VON ERICH

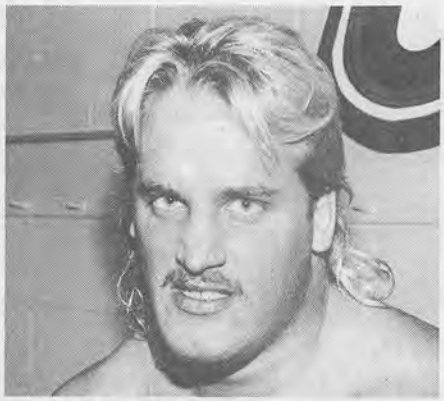
"Frankly, I believe any intimidation factor that comes about during my matches takes place before the opening bell. Most opponents that I face already know about my iron claw and my discus punch, and I think that manages to intimidate them before they even lock up with me. But trying to intimidate my foes isn't something I set out to do consciously. My ability does it for me."

JIM GARVIN

"The best way to get a wrestler shakin' in his boots is to just come out and tell him what you're gonna do to him. Whenever I lock up with some unlucky stiff, I tell him that I'm going to tear him up and then catch him with my DDT. Once a guy knows he's gonna get the snot beat out of him, he's in no mental condition to win a match. And let me tell you, it works every single time."

RON SIMMONS

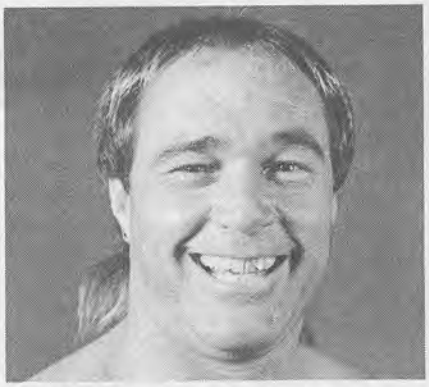
"Are you kidding? When I step through the ropes and my opponent gets one look at my bulging muscles and supremely chiseled physique, he can't even think straight. But the biggest factor I have going for me is my natural strength. Once I grab a hold of the guy, he knows he's going up against one of the most powerful men in the sport. There's simply no substitute for intimidation."



MIKE ENOS

"Intimidation is one of the most important factors in this profession, I think. That's why me and Wayne Bloom named ourselves The Destruction Crew. We purposely set out to make ourselves as rugged as we possibly could. When other tag teams see us come out with our hard hats and sledgehammers, they go running for cover. It's a great psych out."

RS ANSWER
OF THE MONTH



STEVE KEIRN
"Frankly, I think that setting out to intimidate other wrestlers is a complete waste of time. Openly striving to win mind games is just telegraphing your intentions to the other guy, and most times it won't work. It works better for me to keep my emotions hidden. That way, whether I'm ahead or behind in a match, my opponent doesn't know how I feel. Why advertise your ego, anyway?"

NORMAN
"I don't understand this question. What? *Intimate* my opponents? What does that mean, bring 'em flowers or something? I don't care what anybody thinks about me. I like to have a good time, and I don't care if people like that lowdown Kevin Sullivan don't like it. I'm going to act the way I want to act, because I'm a free man now. Just ask Capt. Mike. He'll tell you."

ROAD WARRIOR HAWK
"Intimidation is The Road Warriors' middle name. In the early days when we first started painting our faces, that freaked *everybody* out. Next, we wanted a look that would fit our rugged style, so we commissioned our spiked wrestling outfits. Now, we scare the living daylights out of everyone we come in contact with. This way, we win our matches before the first punch is even thrown."

JOHN TATUM
"I find that the best way to intimidate 'em is to distract 'em. I started it by introducing the beautiful Missy Hyatt to the wrestling world a few years ago, and now I carry on that great tradition with my new valet, Tessa. Once guys get a look at her, they can't keep their minds on the match, and I beat them with ease. How can a man win if he can't keep his eyes away from ringside?"

TULLY BLANCHARD
"I surround myself with the best talent money can buy. Who ever intimidated more wrestlers than The Four Horsemen? What strikes fear in an opponent's heart better than knowing that two or three ruthless wrestlers are around to make sure I'm going to win? Today, I have the same factor in my new manager, Christopher Love. It pays off to have someone watch my back."

SAMOAN SAMU
"The best way is to attack your foe before the opening bell. That throws the guy off and prevents him from using whatever game plan he had. Also, it's good to use as many foul tactics as you can get away with. That way, the poor opponent is afraid of what could happen next. When it comes to intimidation, no one is better at it than The Samoans. That's why we're the best team around."

From time to time, the editors of this magazine find it necessary to condemn those in wrestling who would subvert the basic principles of decency, integrity, and honesty. Without such truths, our sport will die

Earthquake has scored several impressive victories over Ronnie Garvin, but his excessive brutality may come back to haunt him.

THOSE RUMBLINGS BEING heard throughout the WWF can only mean one thing: Earthquake is on a rampage. The immense Canadian grappler has impressed fans, promoters, and fellow wrestlers with an awesome blend of size, power, and agility. In only a few short months, he has risen to the upper echelons of the WWF with convincing pinfall victories over veterans like Ronnie Garvin and Hacksaw Duggan.

Unfortunately, there's a big problem with this 462-pound "national disaster." He isn't content with simply winning his matches. Earthquake insists on further punishing his opponents with "aftershocks," flying leaps that deliver a tremendous amount of crushing force. The move is so devastatingly effective that, by one account, Earthquake has sent 28 men to the hospital.

We accuse Earthquake of excessive brutality, and we appeal to him to immediately stop his "aftershocks." You've already won the match, Earthquake, why rub it in? If you don't care about your opponents' health, think of yourself; if you continue to employ these tactics, you risk being fined or suspended. You'd never get those title shots you're so hungry for.

Earthquake's manager, Jimmy Hart, and his stablemate, Dino Bravo, must also shoulder some of the blame. Earthquake is a rookie in the WWF, and it's very possible Hart and Bravo have convinced him that the only way to succeed is by being brutal. Hart's track record leads us to no other conclusion.

Earthquake's tactics were on clear display April 1 during WrestleMania VI at the SkyDome in Toronto. First, Earthquake pinned Hercules in less than five minutes. Then he delivered one of his "aftershocks." Later, Earthquake accompanied Bravo to the ring for Bravo's match against Duggan. After Duggan pinned Bravo, Earthquake jumped in the ring and battered Hacksaw with three uncalled-for "aftershocks." Everyone viewing the big event witnessed Earthquake's disgusting brutality with their own eyes, and many of them were shocked.

"I had an idea what Earthquake was all about," said one fan, "but the fact that he tried to ruin Hacksaw's great moment of victory at WrestleMania really got me angry. He may think he's so great because he's injured all those men. Well, I've got news for him: He's nothing but a bully! It makes me sick to see someone like him in the WWF top 10."

Another incident that points out how Earthquake operates occurred be-

(Continued on page 60)

HAS SAVAGE SIGNED TO WRESTLE HOGAN AT WRESTLEMANIA IV?
1988
The Year in Wrestling
LEX-PLOSION!
"I'll Take Flair's Title – And Leave Him For Dead!"

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LOOKING AT...

Matt Brock:

Tony Atlas was the last man prior to Ultimate Warrior to pin Hulk Hogan cleanly in the WWF. He did it in 1981.

AT THIS POINT, I'm getting fed up with Saks sending me all over creation. In the past few months, I've been from Tokyo to Topeka. Saks wanted me in Toronto for WrestleMania VI, but this time I laid down the law.

Just forget it this year, I told Saks without hesitation. This running around like a demon isn't doing the old ticker much good. It's hard enough sticking to a low-fat diet while eating at airport lunch counters all the time. Another microwaved bratwurst, Mr. Brock?

My complaints didn't get me very far. Saks insisted that I get on an airplane and get up to Canada to cover the Ultimate Warrior-Hulk Hogan WWF World title match at the SkyDome. I said there was no way I was flying so soon after getting back from one of my all-too-frequent Japanese excursions. So we compromised; I would push my old Plymouth Valiant up to Canada, and he would get off my case for a while.

But, as Saks seems to forget all too often, there are other things going on in the wrestling world besides the superhyped WWF extravaganzas. On my way up to the Great White North two days before WrestleMania, I stopped by the small New York State town of Delhi and took in an evening of ICW wrestling.

As it turned out, it was the best time I've had at a wrestling card in a long while. This was wrestling the way it used to be, without fireworks displays, deafening ring music, or insipid celebrities running around. What I got for my money was 16 pretty good matches featuring some fine talent.

As a policy, I never accept free press credentials; I always purchase the cheapest seat in the house to get a perspective that the other writers can't get. And let me say, it was a pleasure to see the ring without a pair of binoculars.

I had a wonderful time—that is until Tony Atlas came to the ring adorned in his ICW championship belt to wrestle a huge, green newcomer by the name of Hoss. If this were merely a case of a rulebreaking veteran pounding on a crowd-pleasing youngster, I wouldn't have been bothered. But

TONY ATLAS

I remember a different Tony Atlas. A nice, humble fellow, a man whose principles I used to admire.

It was that Tony Atlas who wrestled a not-so-gentle man by the name of Hulk Hogan back in March 1981 at Madison Square Garden on the undercard of the Stan Hansen-Bob Backlund title match. That, to my knowledge, was the last time prior to Ultimate Warrior that anyone cleanly pinned the "Hulkster's" shoulders to the mat (obviously not counting the Andre the Giant fiasco early in 1988).

Atlas smashes Rochester Roadblock with his roadblock. Atlas has reigned as ICW champion for more than a year.

Back then, Hogan and Atlas were up-and-coming stars, both boasting incredible physiques and awesome strength. Everybody knows what happened to Hogan, but Atlas seemed to fade from the scene. I never could understand it. Atlas has a formidable level of power, and he's an excellent—and quite underrated—scientific wrestler.

After his early stint in the WWF, Atlas wrestled in Georgia for the NWA, and also competed in the AWA for quite a spell. But then he became a wrestling nomad, drifting from place to place with little sense of direction.

All that seems to have changed. Since February of last year, Atlas has been champion of the ICW, which promotes cards throughout the East Coast. He has also become one of the most brutal rule-breakers anywhere. In Delhi, I couldn't believe what I was seeing. He defended his title against a huge newcomer by the name of Hoss, but the way he did it embarrassed me.

Atlas still boasts an incredible physique. But instead of throwing dropkicks, he now throws illegal closed-fist punches. Instead of courting the fans' favor, he now spits on them. For some reason, Atlas is a bitter man, and he's taking it out on his opponents.

I caught up with Atlas in the locker room after the show. I expected him to be as outgoing as ever, but when I tried to shake his hand he just brushed it away.

"Don't have no time for you no more, Brock," he seethed. "Where were you when I won my ICW title? Where were you when I was beatin' up all these bums? Probably out covering Hulk Hogan's matches, I bet. Well, I beat him nine years ago, and I could beat him again. Put *that* in your lousy magazine."

I don't know what happened to make Atlas so angry, but he doesn't even look like the same man anymore. I'm not big fan of Hogan's, but at least he *tries* to conduct himself like a gentleman. Atlas acts like a common criminal.

With that attitude, I'd bet he could *never* beat Hogan again, either. He may be a champion, but Atlas is a winner no longer. □

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

POINT:
LEX LUGER HAS HAD TOO MANY NWA WORLD TITLE SHOTS

Lex Luger nearly won the NWA title from Ric Flair at the Great American Bash in 1988, but a controversial decision cost him. Nearly two years later, Luger is still striving for that prize. Bill Apter thinks the "Total Package" has had enough opportunities.

By Bill Apter

HAVEN'T WE BEEN through this before? Go back to December 1988. Lex Luger has once again failed to win the NWA World title from Ric Flair. Flair declares that Luger will never again get a World title shot.

Now it's nearly the middle of 1990 and, wouldn't you know it, Flair and Luger are still going at it.

Didn't Flair end this over a year ago? Isn't it finally time for Flair to stick to what he said?

Let's face it, you can talk about interference, cheating, and all the rest, but the truth is that Luger hasn't been able to win the title from Flair. He's received dozens and dozens of title shots, but the result is always the same: Luger falls short.

Sure, there have been many instances in which Luger appeared to be on the verge of beating Flair. Remember the Baltimore Bash when Luger had Flair in his torture rack, but the match was stopped because Luger had a small cut? Remember Starrcade '88, when Luger again had Flair beaten, only to have his leg collapse? Or how about a recent match in Chicago, when only Ole Anderson and Woman's interference saved Flair?

Other wrestlers have overcome interference and intangibles to win. Luger never has. It's a part of this sport. The matches aren't always clean. The ring isn't always square. The great wrestlers overcome adversity.

Look at Randy Savage, overcoming the presence of Andre the Giant at ringside to win the WWF World title at WrestleMania IV.

Look at Dusty Rhodes, somehow finding a way to beat Flair for the title at the Great American Bash in '86.

Look at The Rock 'n' Roll Express and how many times they overcame adversity to win the NWA World tag team title.

Luger never overcomes adversity, and we all know he's had enough chances.

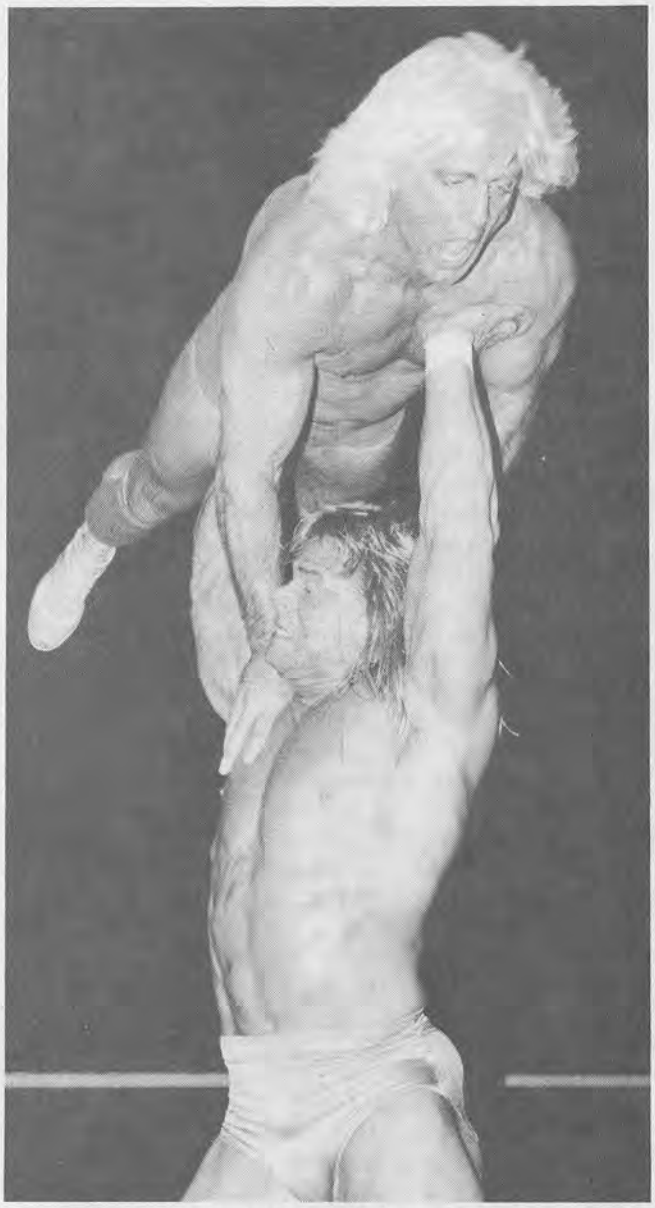
Time's up, Luger. If the NWA had any guts, your days as World title contender would be over.

Bill Apter is senior editor of *Sports Review Wrestling*.

There are two sides to every story, and nowhere is that more true than in professional wrestling. Each month, two of the world's most respected mat journalists will debate an important issue concerning the sport, facing off for an exchange of ideas, leaving the final decision up to *you*!

COUNTERPOINT:

LEX LUGER DESERVES MORE NWA WORLD TITLE SHOTS



Luger is the top contender for Flair's title, writes Bob Smith, and for that reason he should get as many shots at Flair as possible. Smith doesn't think any other NWA contenders are worthy of squaring off for the championship.

By Bob Smith

IN WRESTLING, THE greatest matches are when the best wrestle the best.

In the NWA, the two best wrestlers today are World champion Ric Flair and U.S. champion Lex Luger.

Take a look in the ratings. Flair is the champ, Luger is the number-one contender. It only makes sense that until somebody beats Luger and becomes the number-one contender, Luger and Flair should wrestle as many times as possible.

I was disgusted when Flair vowed not to give Luger any more title shots. It was a cheap way out, because he knew that Luger would eventually beat him.

Okay, so it hasn't happened yet. But it will. How many times can Ole Anderson and Woman interfere? How many times can Luger run into bad luck? How many times can Flair get lucky?

If Flair was beating Luger fair and square, I'd agree that Luger had run out of time. But in this case, Flair hasn't beaten Luger fairly. Not once, not ever.

I have to laugh at those who think Flair should deny Luger title shots. They don't realize that, in wrestling, issues aren't always clear-cut.

Sting is on the sidelines. So are Arn Anderson and sid Vicious. Does Norman deserve title shots for beating Kevin Sullivan? Nonsense.

Hilariously, there are people who feel Norman *does* deserve title shots over Luger. Go further down the NWA ratings. Is Mike Rotundo a World title contender? No. Tommy Rich must prove himself once again. With so many top NWA stars on the sidelines, it's clear that Luger deserves the bulk of the World title shots. I think Flair feels this way, too. He hasn't made any ultimatums to Luger lately. He realizes that avoiding Luger would hurt his reputation.

That's just the way it is. Flair must beat Luger to earn our respect. Luger must beat Flair to win the World title. It's a two-way street.

Let's keep it that way. □

Bob Smith is associate editor of *Sports Review Wrestling*.

WRESTLER OF THE MONTH

THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

EVEN NOW, IT seems hard to believe that two-time WWF World champion Hulk Hogan was pinned and defeated at WrestleMania VI. It's been so long since Hogan's shoulders have been legitimately pinned to the canvas *(see "Matt Brock: Looking At Tony Atlas," page 18)*, that the mere thought was virtually inconceivable.

Inconceivable to everyone, perhaps, but The Ultimate Warrior. On April 1 at the SkyDome in Toronto, Ontario, The Ultimate Warrior became the first man in history to hold the WWF World title and the Intercontinental championship at the same time. But more importantly, this victory cemented the Warrior's reputation as perhaps the most awesome force in the sport.

"When the match was first signed, I wrote that The Ultimate Warrior would defeat Hulk Hogan," said Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks. "But a week before the match, I got cold feet on my prediction and went with the 'Hulkster' in *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly*. I just didn't think the Warrior could deal with the pressure."

"I saw it happen, but I'm *still* stunned," said Associate Editor Bob Smith, who also predicted that Hogan would win the bout. "Hogan just doesn't lose important matches. Time after time, he's risen to the occasion against the biggest and best contenders anywhere. But this time, he was pinned. *Clean*. A three-count in the middle of the ring. Who else could we pick?"

There truly was no other choice. After several hard selections in previous months, the Warrior was the unanimous pick for this edition. Even Associate Editor Eddie Ellner, who usually disagrees with most staff picks, had to concur this time.

"The Warrior was dominant," said Ellner. "I still don't think he's much of a wrestler, but he got the job done when the money was on the line. Hey, he beat Hulk Hogan. How many men can say they've done that?"

Many fans among the 67,678 who packed the SkyDome were rooting for Hogan, while others favored the Warrior. But when the Warrior slipped out of the way of a Hogan legdrop, splashed him, and pinned him, everyone in the arena—and perhaps as many as a million or more watching on closed-circuit and pay-per-view television—knew they were viewing history. The fans remained standing and cheering for minutes as fireworks exploded in the SkyDome and the Warrior basked in the glory, holding both championship belts aloft.

The Warrior has come a long way since making his ring debut in 1985. From his PowerTeam U.S.A. and Blade Runners stints (both with the man who would later be known as Sting), Warrior showed potential. But he seemed a long way from title contention.

When he moved on to the World Class (now USWA) area in 1986, he was still raw, but he seemed to gain a new, winning outlook. He changed his name to Dingo Warrior and almost immediately captured the World Class Texas and tag team titles (with Lance Von Erich). However, bigger conquests—and larger prizes—were awaiting the 6'4", 280-pound bodybuilder.

A few months later, he made his WWF debut, and it was clear this man was not about to be denied. Changing his name to The Ultimate Warrior, he barreled over competitors such as Hercules Hernandez and Harley Race. In 1988, he destroyed The Honky Tonk Man in 30 seconds to win the Intercontinental title. Although Bobby Heenan illegally aided Rick Rude in winning the I-C title from Warrior last April, Warrior easily regained it in August.

After that, the Warrior seemed more determined than ever to establish himself as the number-one star in the WWF. When he squared off with Hogan for a few brief moments at the Royal Rumble this past January, he failed to best the WWF champion, but he held his own. He knew he could defeat Hogan if given the chance.

It took him only one try to unseat Hogan as WWF champion. The match was relatively even throughout, and it looked as if Hogan might be able to capture the victory after withstanding the Warrior's gorilla-press and splash, his usual finishing maneuver. But in the end, it was the Warrior's surprising ability to outthink Hogan that made the difference. Hogan connected with a vicious boot to the face, but Warrior alertly moved out of the way when Hogan attempted a legdrop. One massive splash later, Hogan was pinned.

It is not known what kind of champion the Warrior will be. He certainly has big shoes to fill in replacing Hogan, the most popular wrestler of his time. But for now, this victory is enough. He has accomplished what many thought was impossible.

The Ultimate Warrior is our "Wrestler of the Month." And it's clear he's the wrestler of the future as well. □

At WrestleMania VI, The Ultimate Warrior won the WWF World title from Hulk Hogan while retaining the Intercontinental championship.

Special Section

WRESTLEM

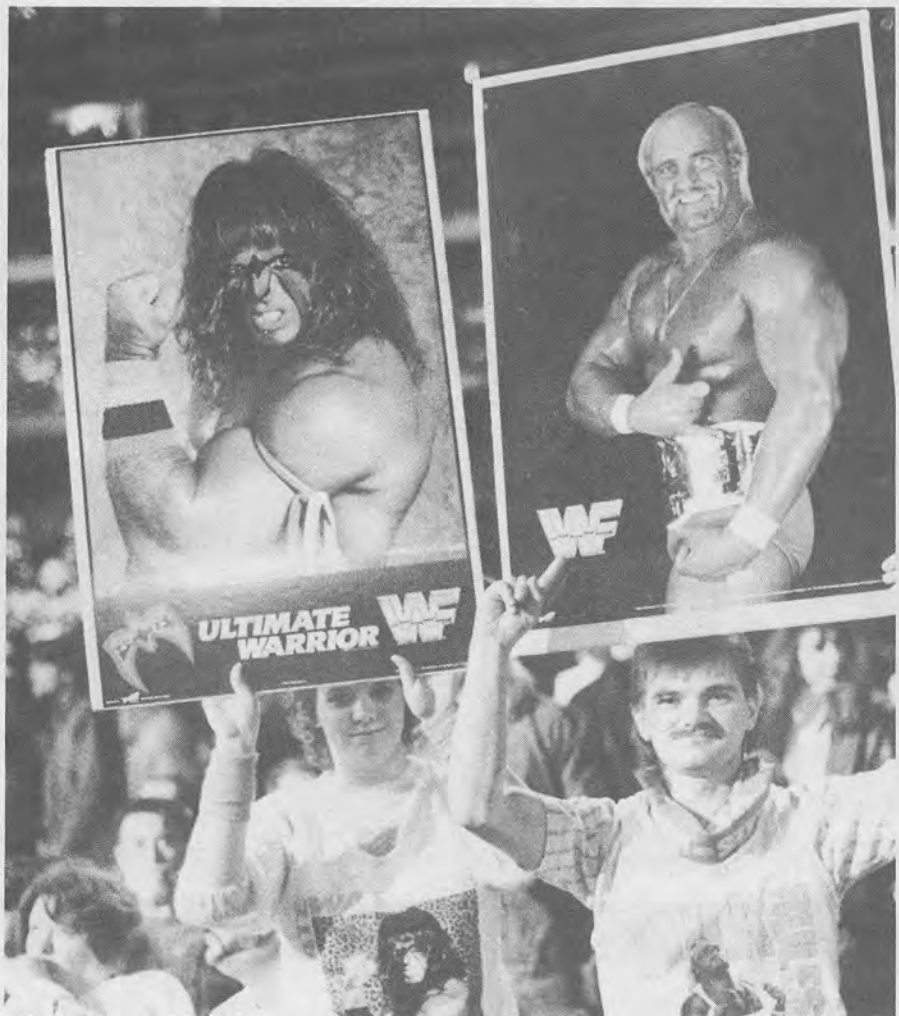
Complete Match-By-Match Coverage

It is being called one of the greatest days professional wrestling has ever seen. The Ultimate Warrior defeated Hulk Hogan for the WWF World title, Demolition downed Andre the Giant and Haku for the World tag team title, and a nation of fans held its breath as wrestling history was made!

EVERY YEAR, MILLIONS of fans the world over look forward to WrestleMania. In the past, this annual extravaganza has produced some classic moments. Who can ever forget Rick Steamboat's victory over Randy Savage for the Intercontinental title at WrestleMania III in 1987? Or Hulk Hogan teaming with Mr. T to defeat Roddy Piper and Paul Orndorff at WrestleMania I in 1985?

The previous WrestleManias provided some tough acts to follow. But on April 1 at Toronto's SkyDome, WrestleMania VI topped all expectations. Hogan, the two-time WWF World champion, put his title on the line against The Ultimate Warrior, the Intercontinental champion. This matchup turned out to be one of the most important in WWF history, as the Warrior upset Hogan to take his place among the sport's elite.

Also on the card, Demolition defeated Andre the Giant and Haku for their third WWF World tag team championship. Thirteen more match-



MANIA VI

Of course, The Ultimate Warrior and Hulk Hogan had their fans at WrestleMania VI (opposite page), but so did Jesse "The Body" Ventura (above), who provided color commentary on the pay-per-view telecast.

es rounded out a card that lasted almost four hours. If you missed it, don't despair. Now you can join *Sports Review Wrestling* as we bring you complete match-by-match coverage. If you saw it, join us as we relive of one of the year's greatest events—WrestleMania VI!

Paul Roma vs. Steve Lombardi: The opening match of WrestleMania VI—not aired on the pay-per-view broadcast—saw the young, powerful Roma use his strength to his advantage against the "Brooklyn Brawler." At one point, Roma caught Lombardi with a sensational dropkick delivered from the top rope. Lombardi battled back with foul tactics, but Roma reversed an inside cradle to score the hard-fought victory. ***Time of the match: 9:54.***

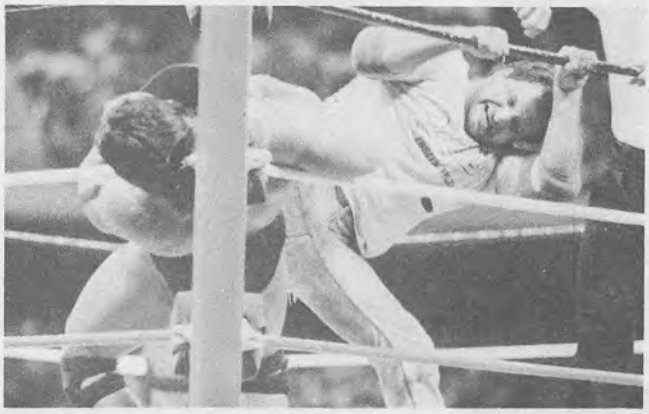
Koko B. Ware vs. Rick Martel: "The Model" took the early advantage, only to be quickly confounded by Ware's flying bodypress and a pair of dropkicks. The advantage seesawed, and Martel was unable to clamp on the Boston crab. Ware fought back with a pair of flying headbutts, but Martel capitalized on the "Birdman's" missed flying bodypress to use the Boston crab—this time successfully—and gain a submission. ***Time of the match: 5:31.***

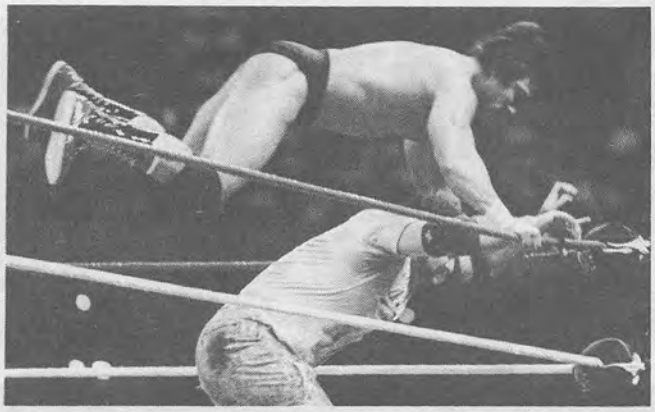
Andre the Giant & Haku vs. Demolition: After a brief four-way brawl, Smash and Haku took over for their respective teams. Demolition did a masterful job at keeping the former "King" away from his corner; Haku was unable to tag off to the Giant even once. Andre did manage to get involved in the bout, however, by hammering Ax and Smash with beefy forearms from the ring apron. Late in the bout, Andre grabbed Smash from behind as Haku prepared to savate-kick him. When Smash ducked, Andre was hit in the chin and fell helplessly into the ropes. Smash clotheslined Haku, setting him up for the "Demolition decapitation," after which Ax scored the pin to claim the WWF World tag team title for the third time. After the match, Heenan slapped Andre, who angrily beat up both "The Weasel" and Haku. ***Time of the match: 9:15.***

Hercules vs. Earthquake: Hercules started off strongly, dominating Earthquake with a powerful series of punches. After leaving the ring to recover, Earthquake beat Hercules in a test of strength, then proceeded to

(Continued on page 54)

STEVE LOMBARDI VS. PAUL ROMA

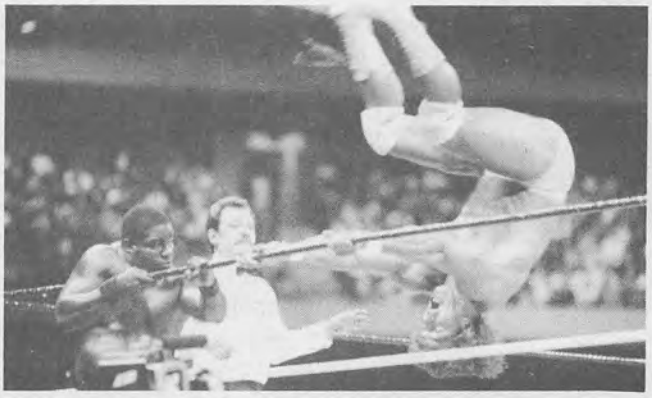


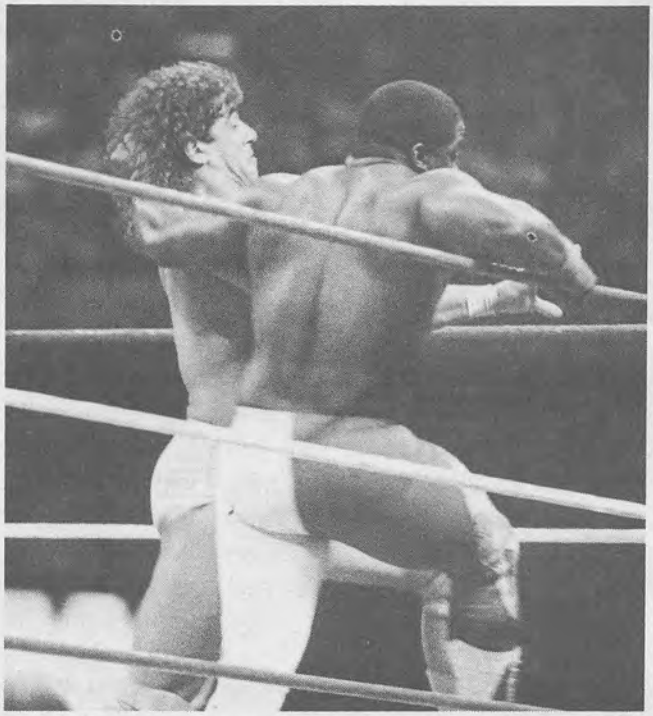


"Brooklyn Brawler" Lombardi kicks Roma against the turnbuckle (above). Roma avoids Lombardi's charge (top right).

Roma executes a flying body-press on Lombardi (left). Roma scored the pin in the one match that wasn't aired on pay-per-view or closed-circuit TV.

KOKO B. WARE vs. RICK MARTEL

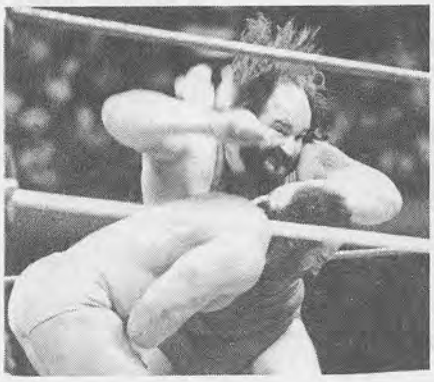




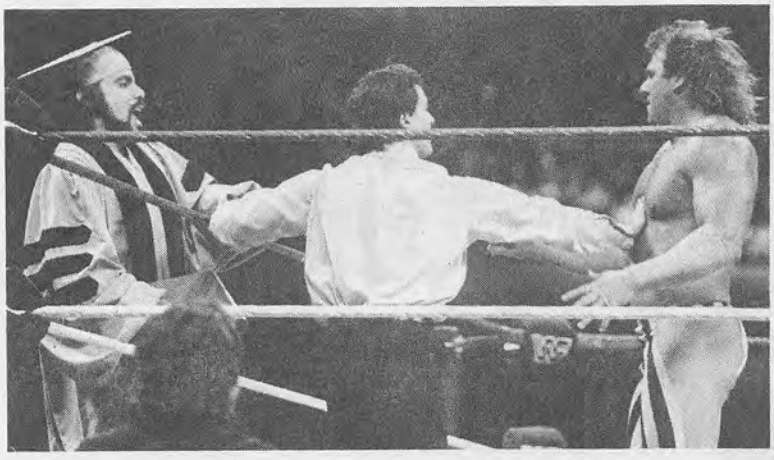
Martel doesn't want to get back in the ring this way (top left). "The Model" uses his fists (left), but Ware uses the turnbuckle to achieve his ends (above). Martel forced Koko to submit.

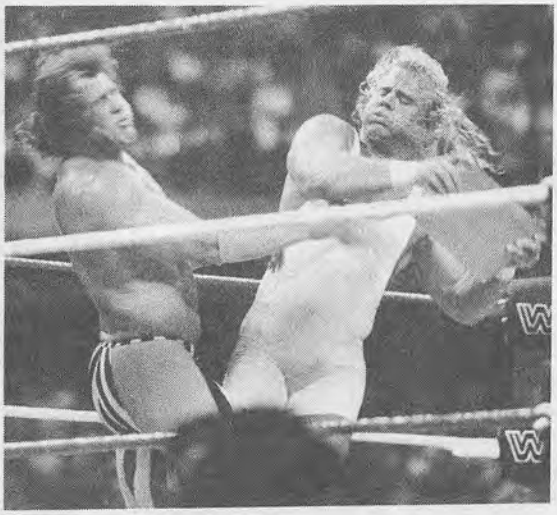
HERCULES vs. EARTHQUAKE

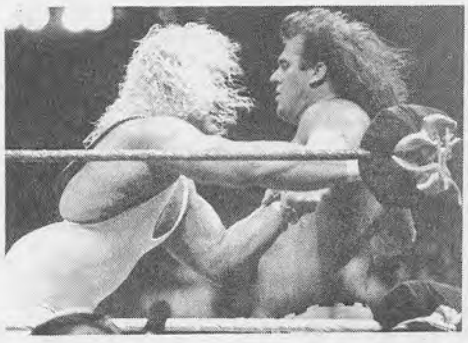
Earthquake dominated his encounter with Hercules, pinning him in less than five minutes. After the match, Earthquake gave Hercules an "aftershock."



CURT HENNIG vs. BRUTUS BEEFCAKE



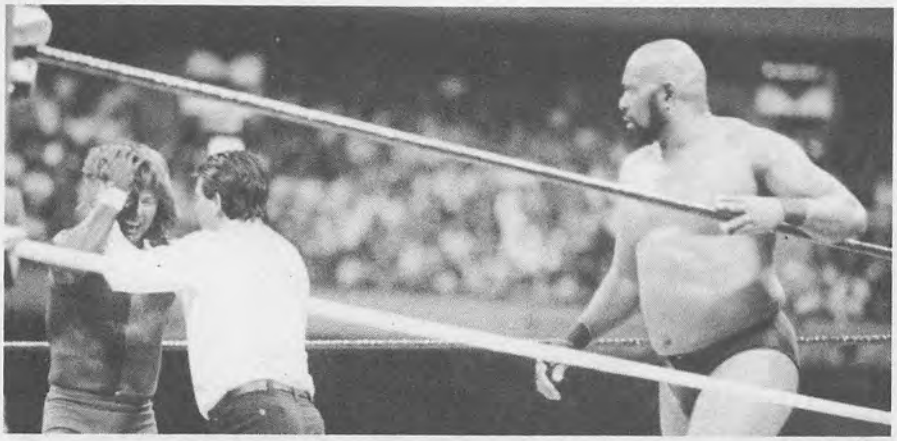




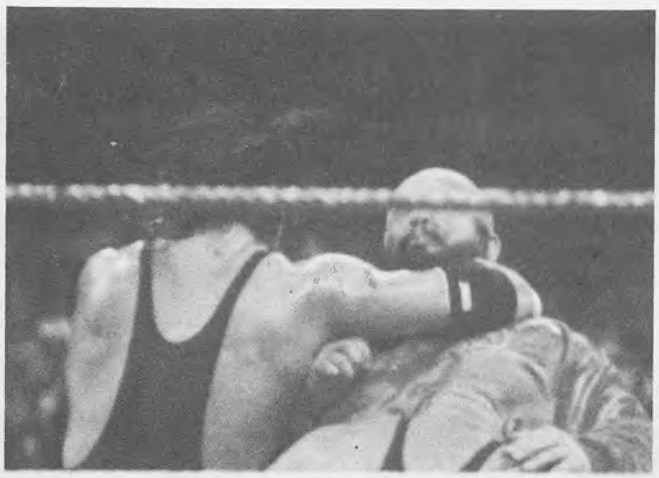
Hennig intends to whip Beefcake across the ring (left). Lanny Poffo gets up on the ring apron to taunt Beefcake (above); after the match, Beefcake cut "The Genius' " hair. Hennig whacks Beefcake with Poffo's scroll (right). Hennig was pinned after Brutus hit *him* with the scroll.

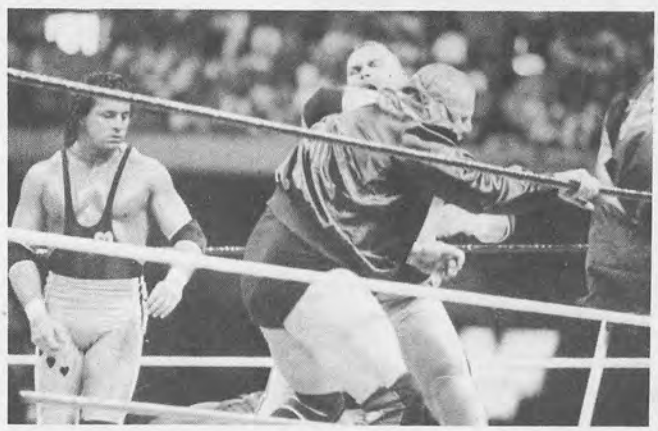
RODDY PIPER vs. BAD NEWS BROWN

Brown applies a nervehold on the "Rowdy Scot" (left), who painted half his body black. Piper complains to the referee about Brown's tactics (below). Brown heads Piper toward the ringpost (right). Both men were counted out in this all-out brawl.



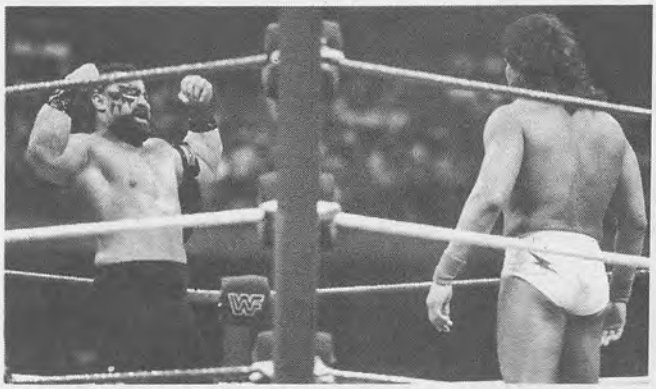
THE HART FOUNDATION vs. THE BOLSHEVIKS

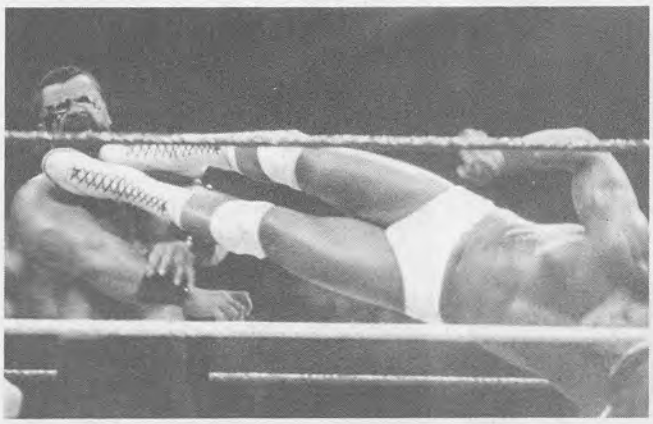




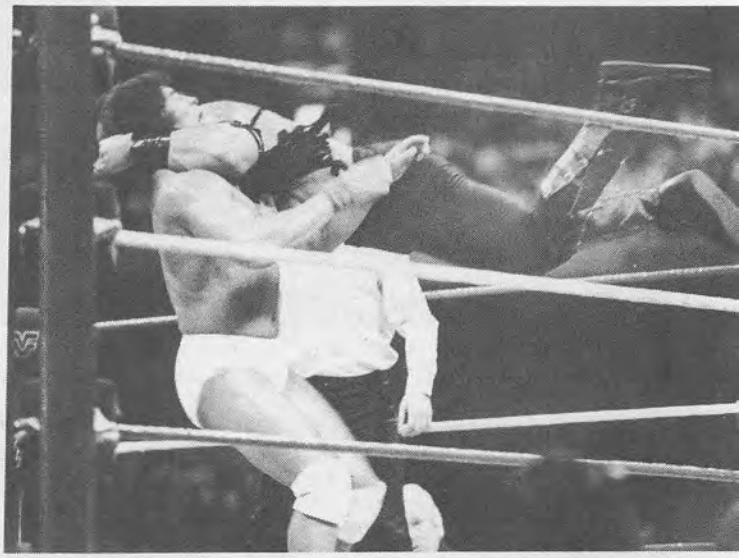
Jim Neidhart and Bret Hart attack The Bolsheviks during their singing of the Soviet national anthem (top left and left), and give Boris Zukhov a "Hart attack" clothesline (above) before pinning him. The match was over in 19 seconds.

TITO SANTANA vs. THE BARBARIAN

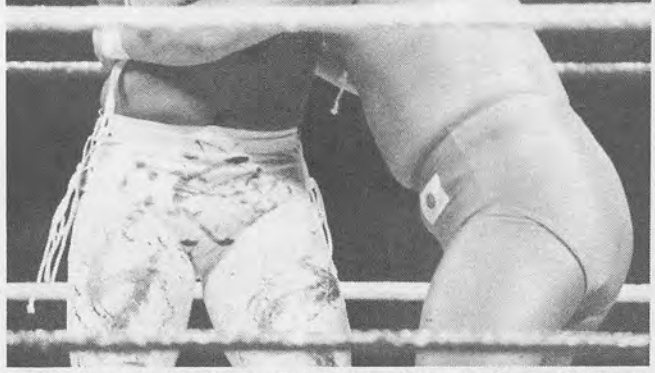


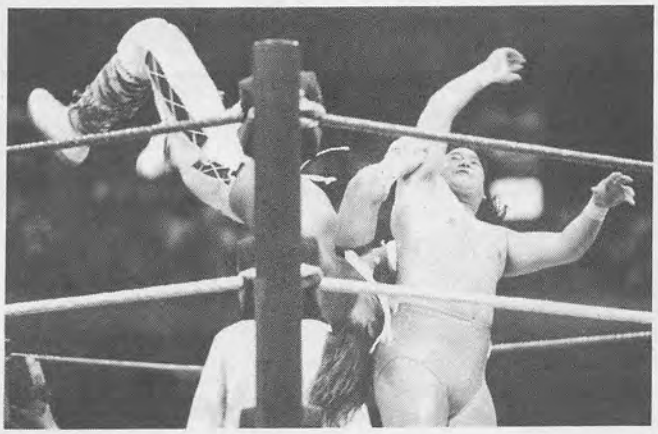


Barbarian flexes to intimidate Santana (left). Tito nails his foe with a well-placed dropkick (bottom left), but Barbarian's brutal clothesline (below) gave him a pinfall victory.



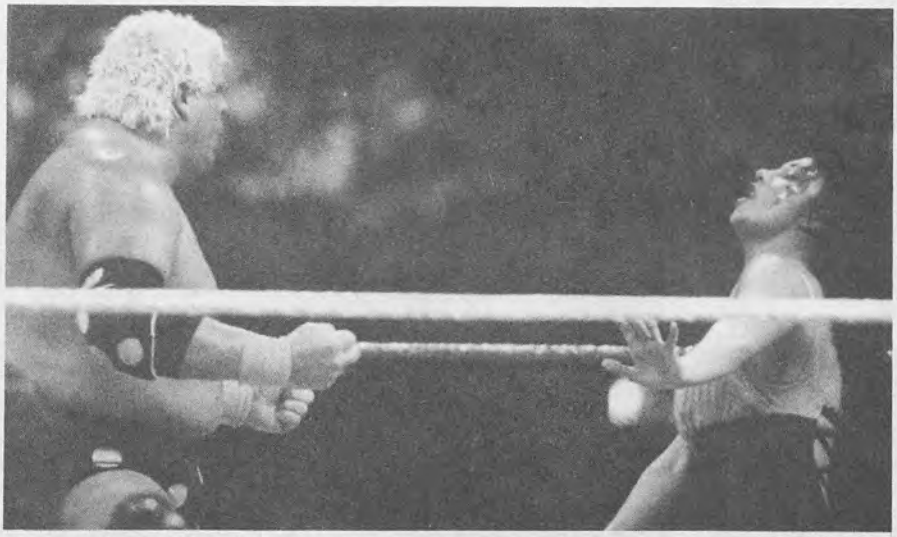
THE ORIENT EXPRESS vs. THE ROCKERS

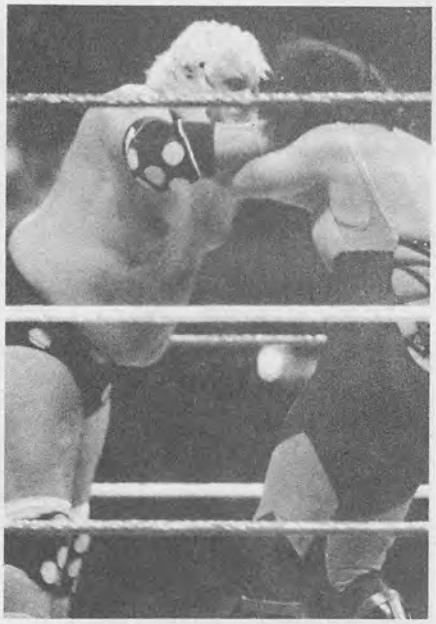




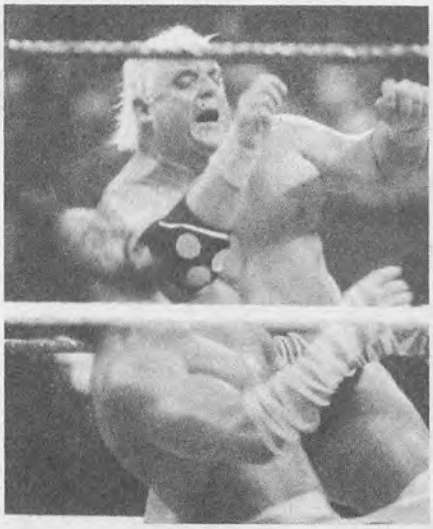
Marty Jannetty headlocks Pat Tanaka (above). Shawn Michaels seems reluctant to mix it up with Tanaka (top right). Tanaka backdrops Michaels (right). The Orient Express won by countout after Akio Sato threw salt in Jannetty's eyes.

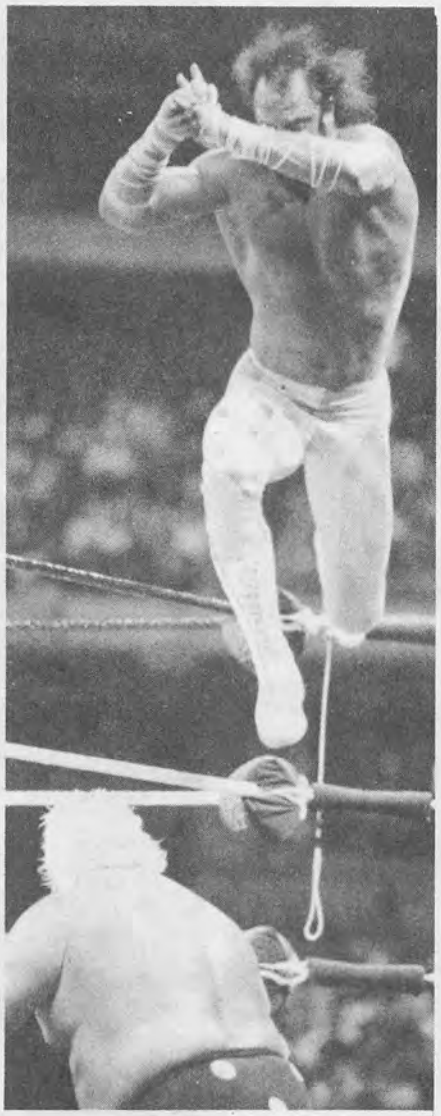
RANDY SAVAGE & SENSATIONAL SHERRI vs. DUSTY RHODES & SAPPHIRE

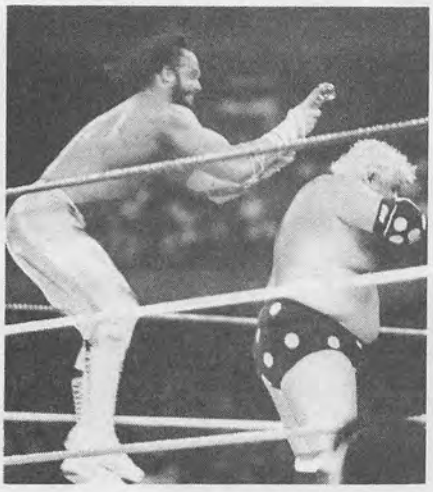


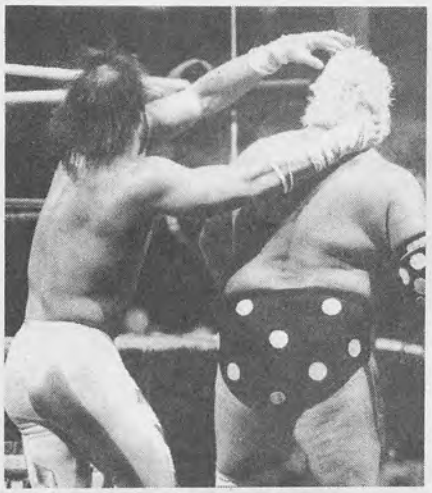


Dusty challenges Sherri (above) and they lock up (right). The "American Dream" didn't hesitate to mix it up with a woman, since he hardly considers Sherri a lady.





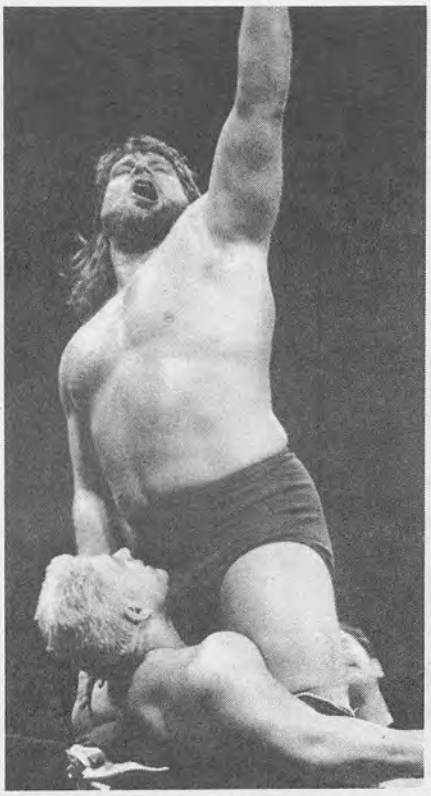


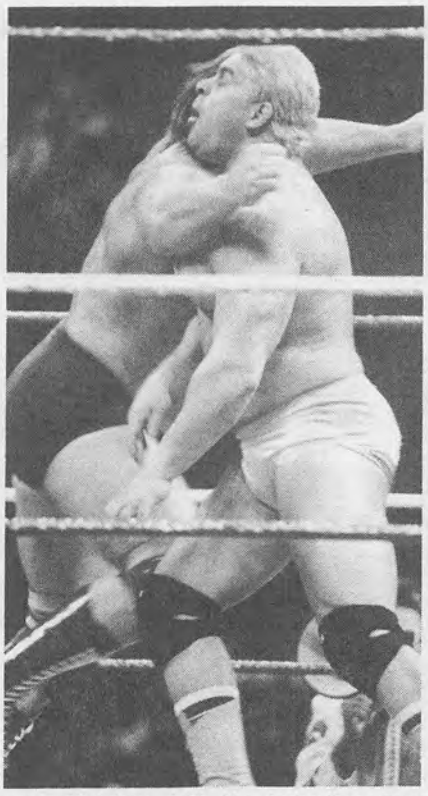


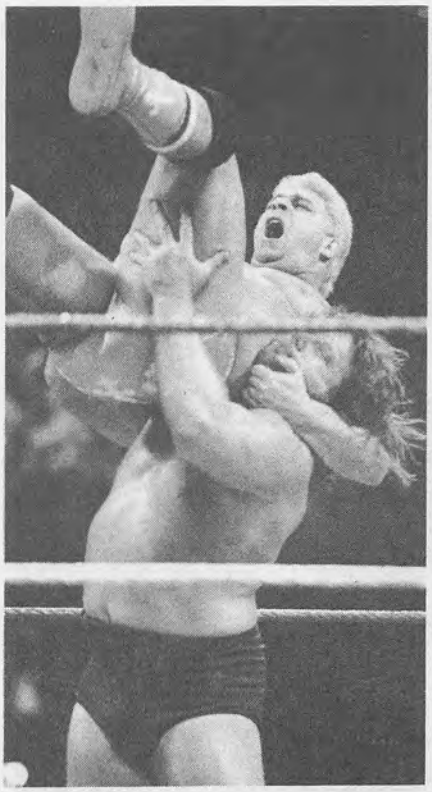
Dusty elbows Savage (top). Sapphire stops Sherri from getting involved (above). Savage targets an axhandle at Dusty (right).

The "Macho King" crowns Dusty with his scepter (top) and aims him at the ringpost (above). Dusty and Sapphire won the bout.

DINO BRAVO vs. HACKSAW DUGGAN

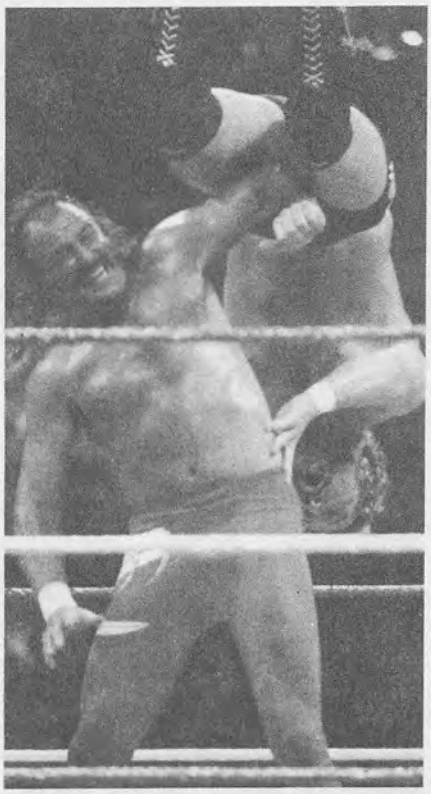






Duggan exhorts the crowd to "Hoooooo!" (above left). He clotheslines Bravo (above center) and catches him with a spinecrusher (above right). Duggan won the match, but was brutalized by Earthquake afterward.

TED DiBIASE vs. JAKE ROBERTS

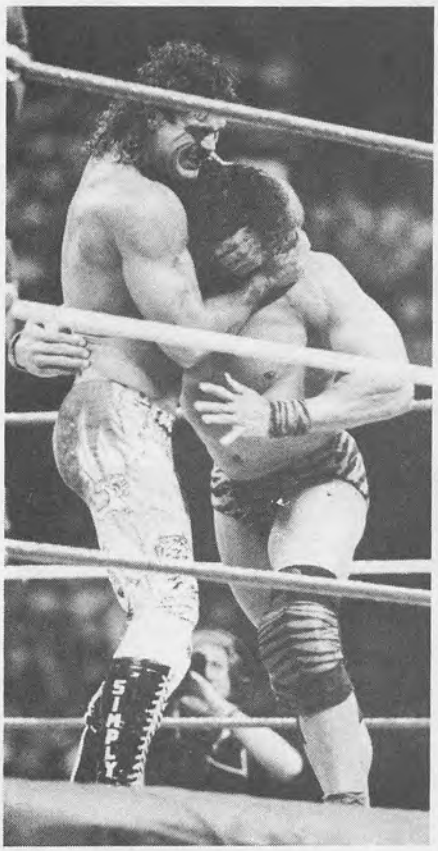


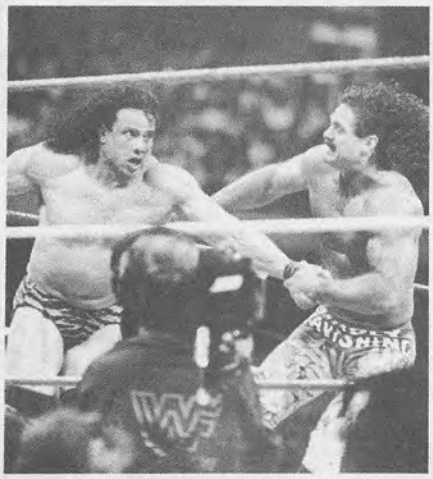
Roberts backdrops DiBiase (left). The "Million-Dollar Man" goes for the sleeper (top right). Trapped against the turnbuckle, Jake thrusts a knee at DiBiase (right). Roberts was counted out, and DiBiase regained his "million-dollar belt."

AKEEM vs. BIG BOSSMAN

Akeem has Big Bossman at his mercy (top left and left), but Bossman quickly rallied to score the pin. Afterward, Bossman had a stern warning for Slick (above).

RICK RUDE vs. JIMMY SNUKA

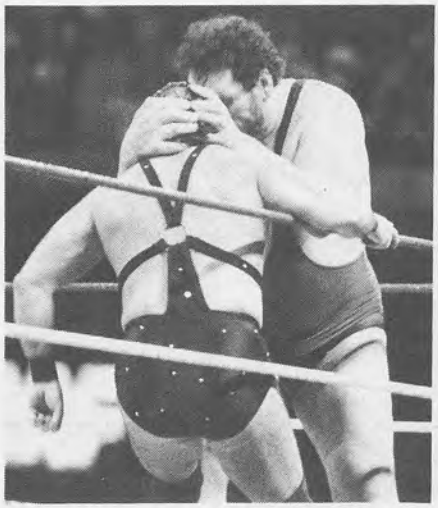




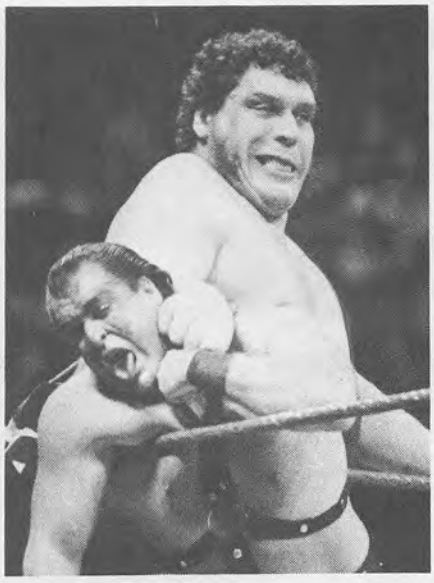
Rude whips "Superfly" across the ring (above). Snuka was a victim of Rude's "Rude awakening."

Rude clamps a headlock on the Fijian (left). Snuka leaps to avoid "Ravishing" Rick's charge (right). Many considered Snuka's loss by pinfall an upset.

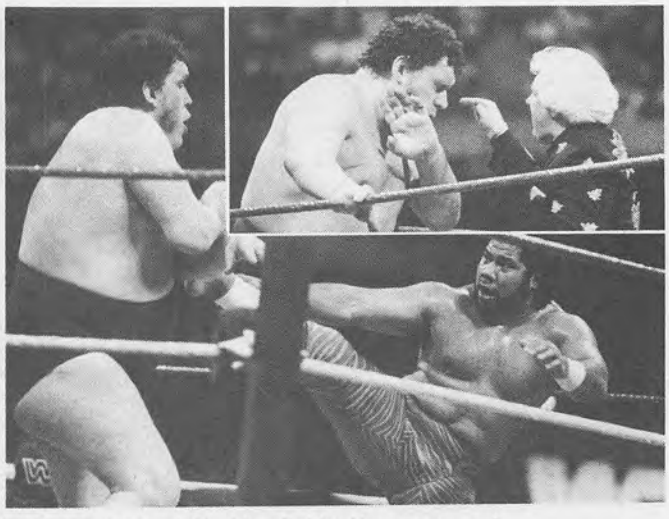
ANDRE THE GIANT & HAKU vs. DEMOLITION



Andre headbutts Ax (above) and delivers a chop while the referee gestures for Haku to return to his corner (right).



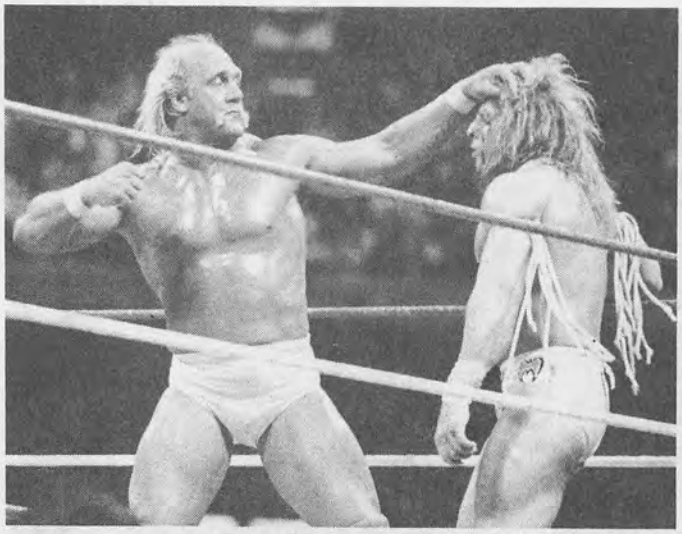
Haku wants to make a wish on Ax (above). Andre won't let Ax catch his breath (right). Andre and Haku were defending a title they had held since last December.



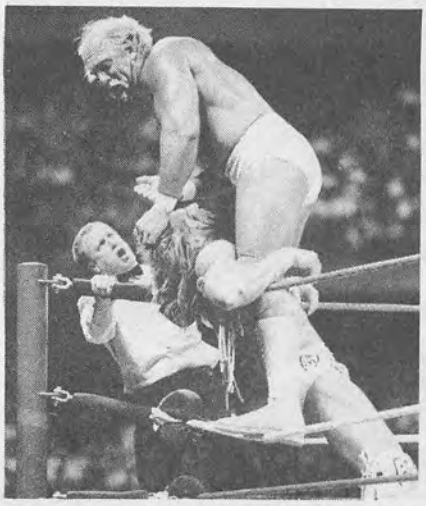
Ax celebrates Demolition's victory as Andre watches helplessly (above left). After Bobby Heenan argued with Andre (inset), Andre thrashed Heenan, then stopped Haku's assault (above right).

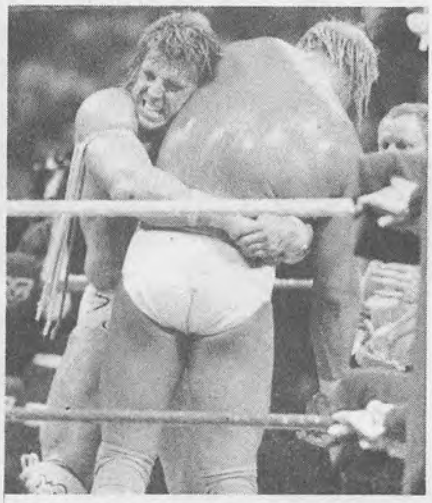
HULK HOGAN vs. THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

Hogan momentarily takes the advantage in a test of strength (left). Warrior hits Hulk with a tremendous clothesline (above).

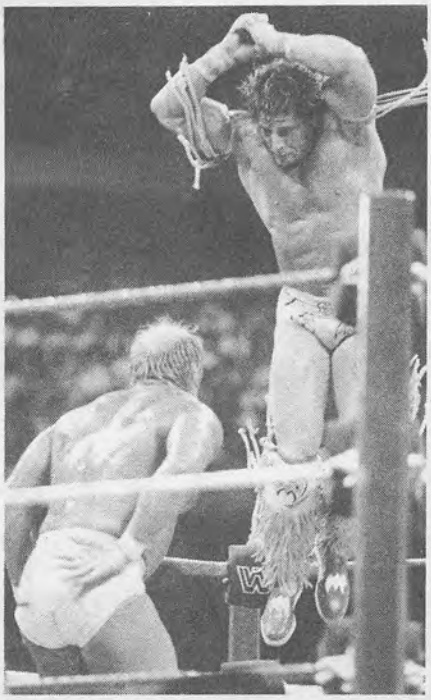


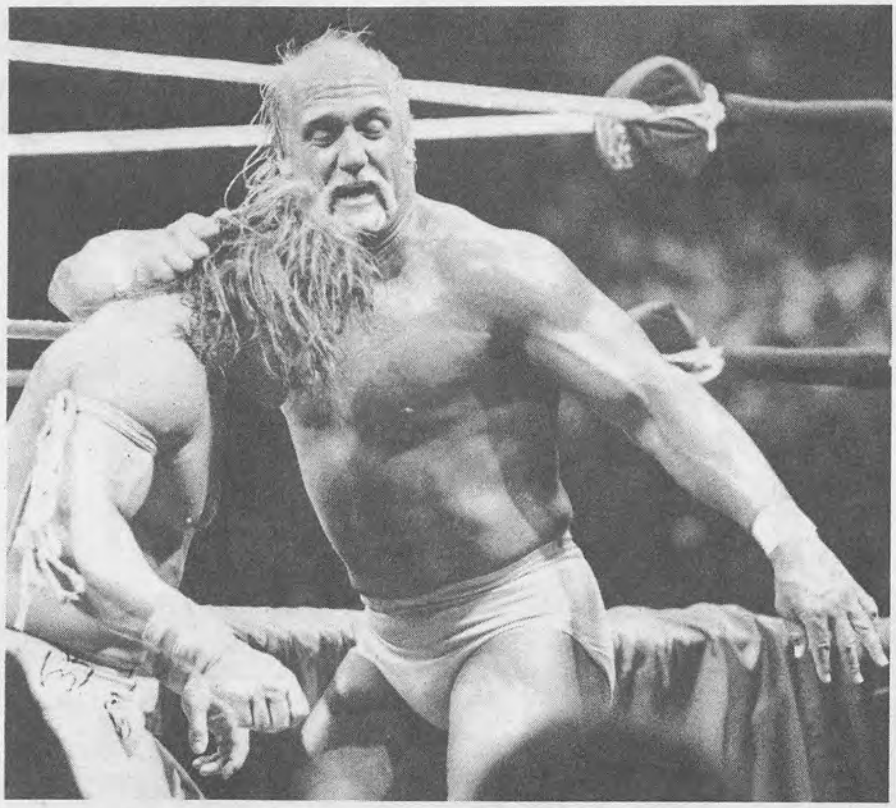
The "Hulkster" pounces on Warrior (above left). Referee Dave Hebner struggles to separate the two combatants (above right). This epic confrontation was the first-ever clash between these two.



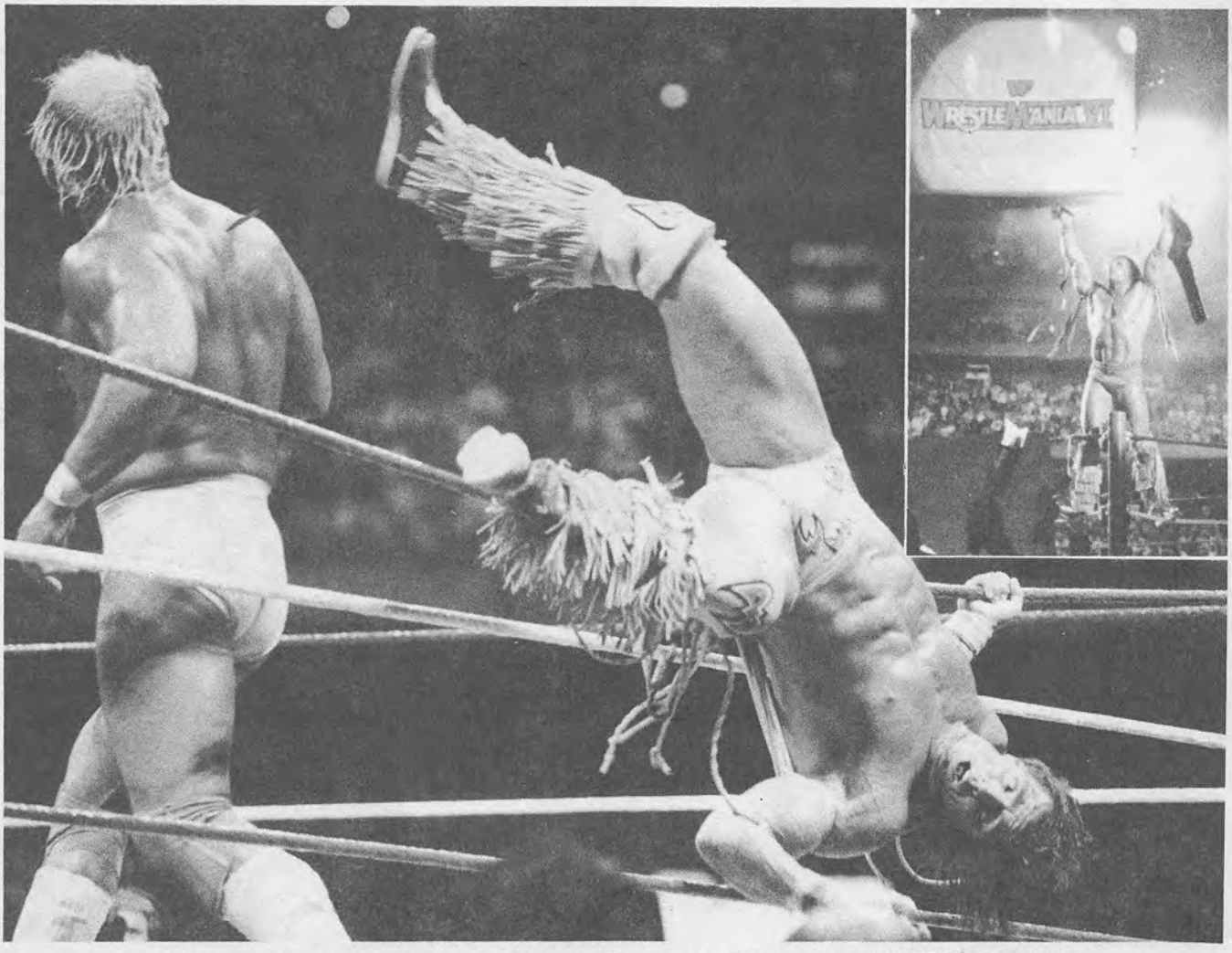


Hogan gains the edge on the Warrior (above left and center), then Warrior slaps on the bearhug (above right) that nearly caused Hulk to submit.



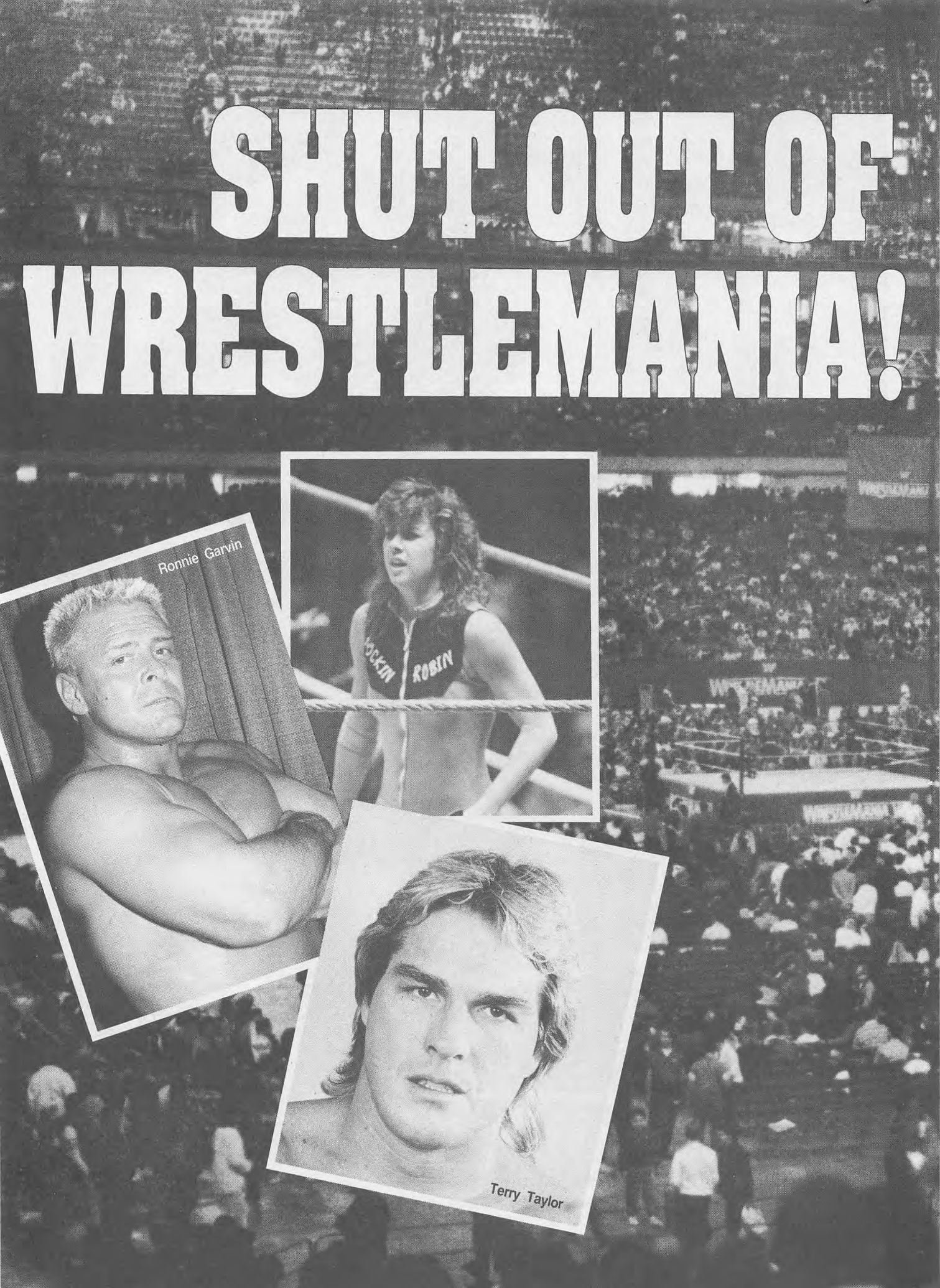


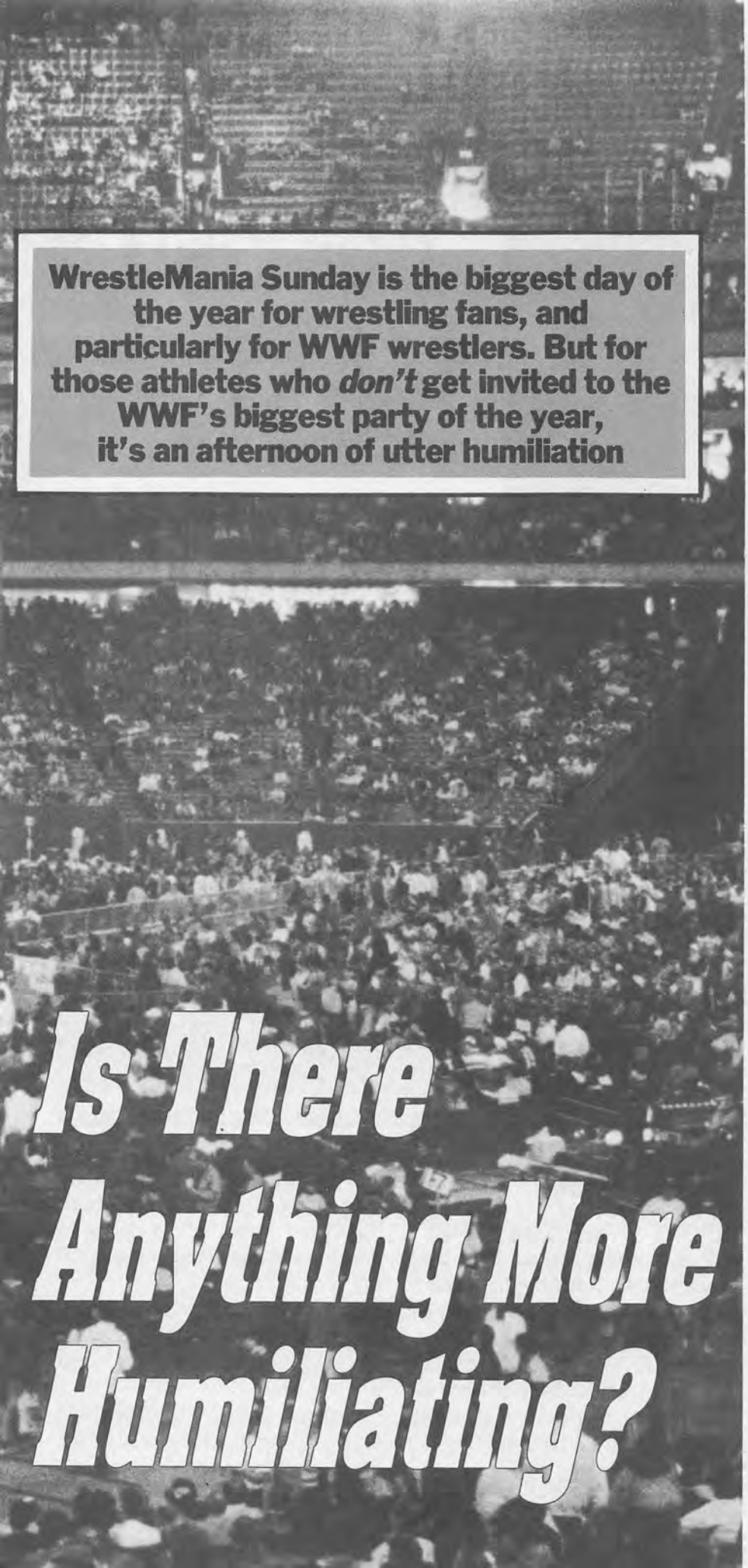
Warrior targets an axhandle at Hogan (above). Outside the ring, Hulk collars Warrior for a toss into the ringpost (right).



Hulk dumps Warrior over the top rope (above). Warrior is triumphant as the new WWF World champion (inset); Hogan is visible in the bottom right corner of the photo.

SHUT OUT OF WRESTLEMANIA!





WrestleMania Sunday is the biggest day of the year for wrestling fans, and particularly for WWF wrestlers. But for those athletes who *don't* get invited to the WWF's biggest party of the year, it's an afternoon of utter humiliation

Is There Anything More Humiliating?

By Dave Rosenbaum

WRESTLEMANIA VI WAS a day of glory for The Ultimate Warrior. His dream of becoming World champion was fulfilled in front of a crowd of nearly 68,000 fans at the Toronto SkyDome.

By defeating Hulk Hogan, the Warrior proved that he is now the greatest wrestler in the WWF. April 1, 1990, is a day he will never forget.

But for several other WWF wrestlers, WrestleMania VI was unforgettable for a much different reason. On April 1, the doors to the SkyDome were slammed shut on several important WWF stars, including former NWA World champion Ron Garvin, current WWF World women's champion Rockin' Robin, and former World Class Texas champion Terry Taylor.

They were not invited to participate in the WWF's biggest card of the year. And not getting invited to WrestleMania is more than a signal that a career could be headed for trouble. Indeed, it's downright humiliating.

"I remember when it happened to me," said two-time former WWF World women's champ Wendi Richter. "One year, I was the hottest thing in the sport. I helped put that first WrestleMania on the map. The next year, I'm gone."

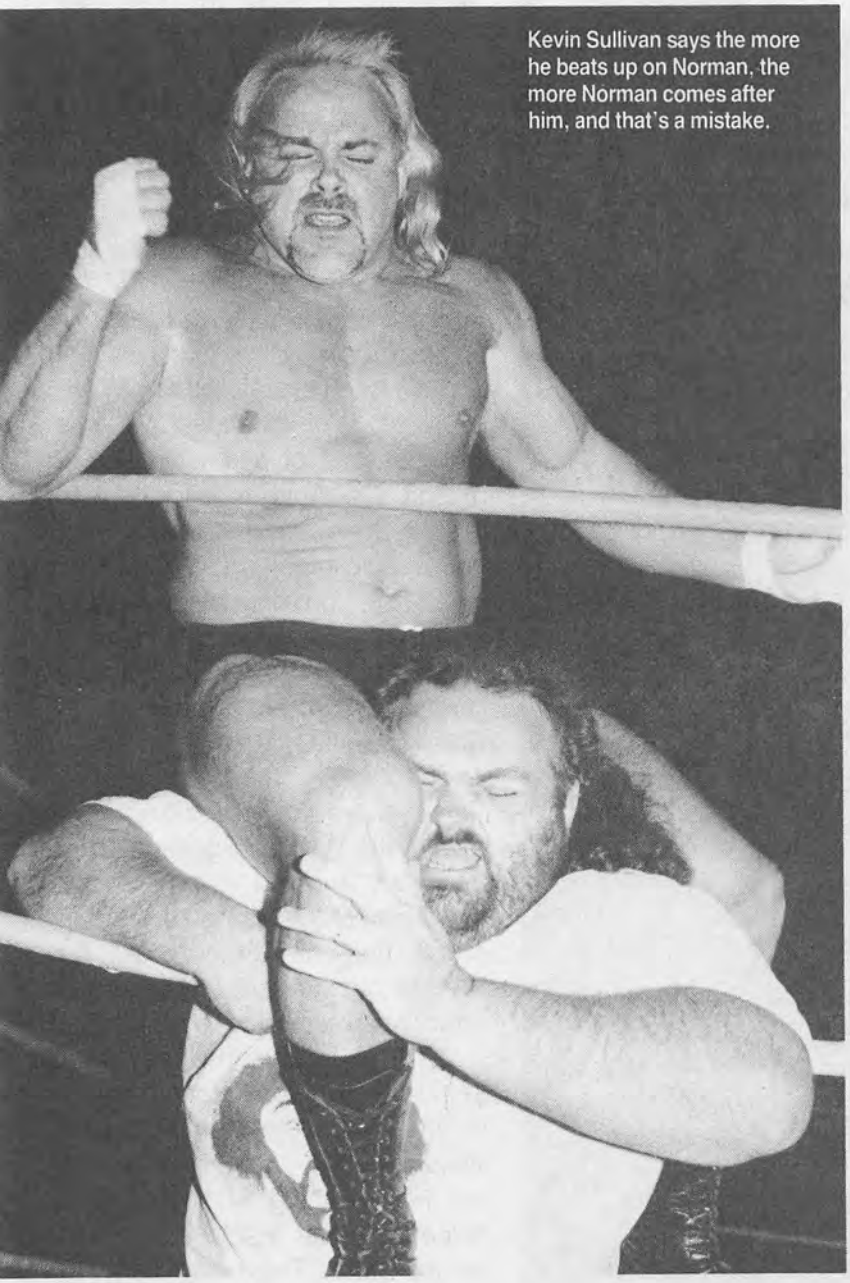
At WrestleMania I, Richter defeated Lelani Kai for her second World title. It was, arguably, as big a match as the Hulk Hogan and Mr. T vs. Roddy Piper and Paul Orndorff bout. In fact, some people even suggested at the time that Richter was even more popular than Hogan.

WrestleMania II, however, was held without Richter. Hogan, of course, was in the main event.

(Continued on page 50)

KEVIN SULLIVAN:

"NORMAN'S TOO STUPID TO QUIT!"



Kevin Sullivan says the more he beats up on Norman, the more Norman comes after him, and that's a mistake.

Kevin Sullivan thought he'd have an easy time with Norman the Lunatic. But it hasn't turned out that way for Sullivan, whose talk must make up for what his wrestling can't do

"Big, stupid, ugly Norman. He's so ugly that in the morning he has to ambush breakfast."

—Jim Cornette

By Andy Rodriguez

SOME WRESTLERS FLAUNT their strengths and hide their weaknesses. Norman the Lunatic hides his strengths and flaunts his weaknesses.

Ambush breakfast. Cornette's no fool, and he must have realized by now that Norman is no fool, either. Sure, Norman's a bit immature—for *any* age.

But stupid?

Well, Norman's not exactly a genius, but he has more than enough brains and wrestling knowledge to destroy a wrestler the caliber of, say, Kevin Sullivan.

Which he's done, time and time again. Of course, Sullivan is either too stupid—or too vain—to admit it.

"I thrash Norman," Sullivan said after yet another loss to Norman, "but he's just too stupid to quit."

The Norman-Sullivan feud goes

way back. Sullivan, apparently, is the man most offended by Norman's childlike antics and obsession with Woman. Sullivan destroyed Norman's camera, mauled a picture of Woman that Norman drew with his own hands, and otherwise belittled this happy-go-lucky friend of the fans.

Norman, who normally doesn't let other people's cruelty get him down, reacted differently this time and began feuding with Sullivan. That, as it turned out, meant Sullivan's downfall.

"Norman may not be so smart, but he's a heck of a lot swifter than Sullivan," said Mike Rotundo, who has teamed with Norman several times in matches against Sullivan and Cactus Jack.

"Sullivan made a big mistake by getting Norman angry," Rotundo continued. "Put it this way: Nor-

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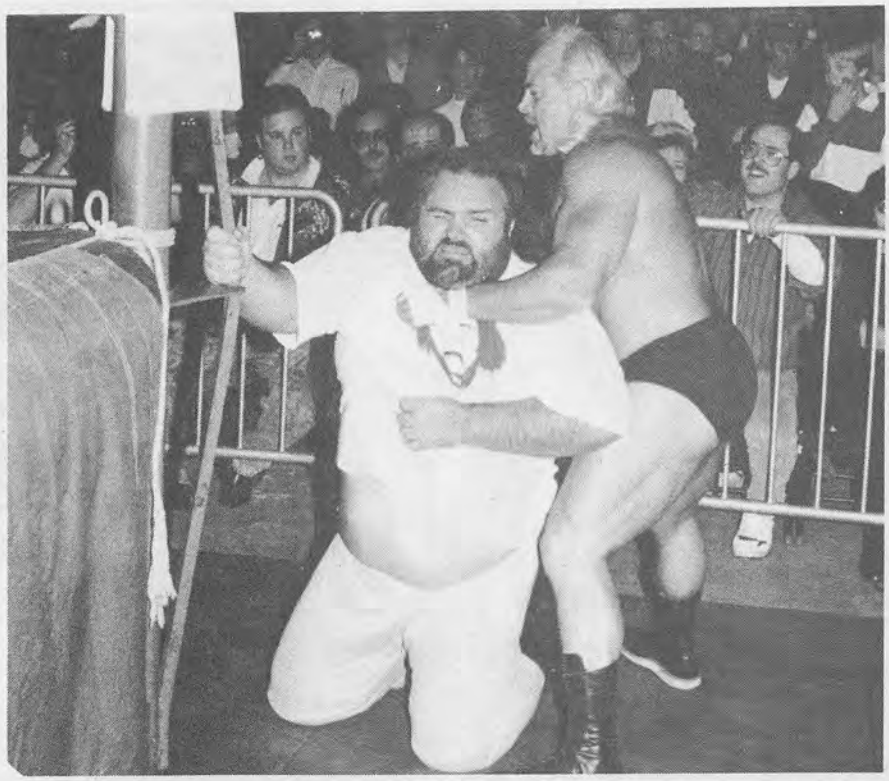
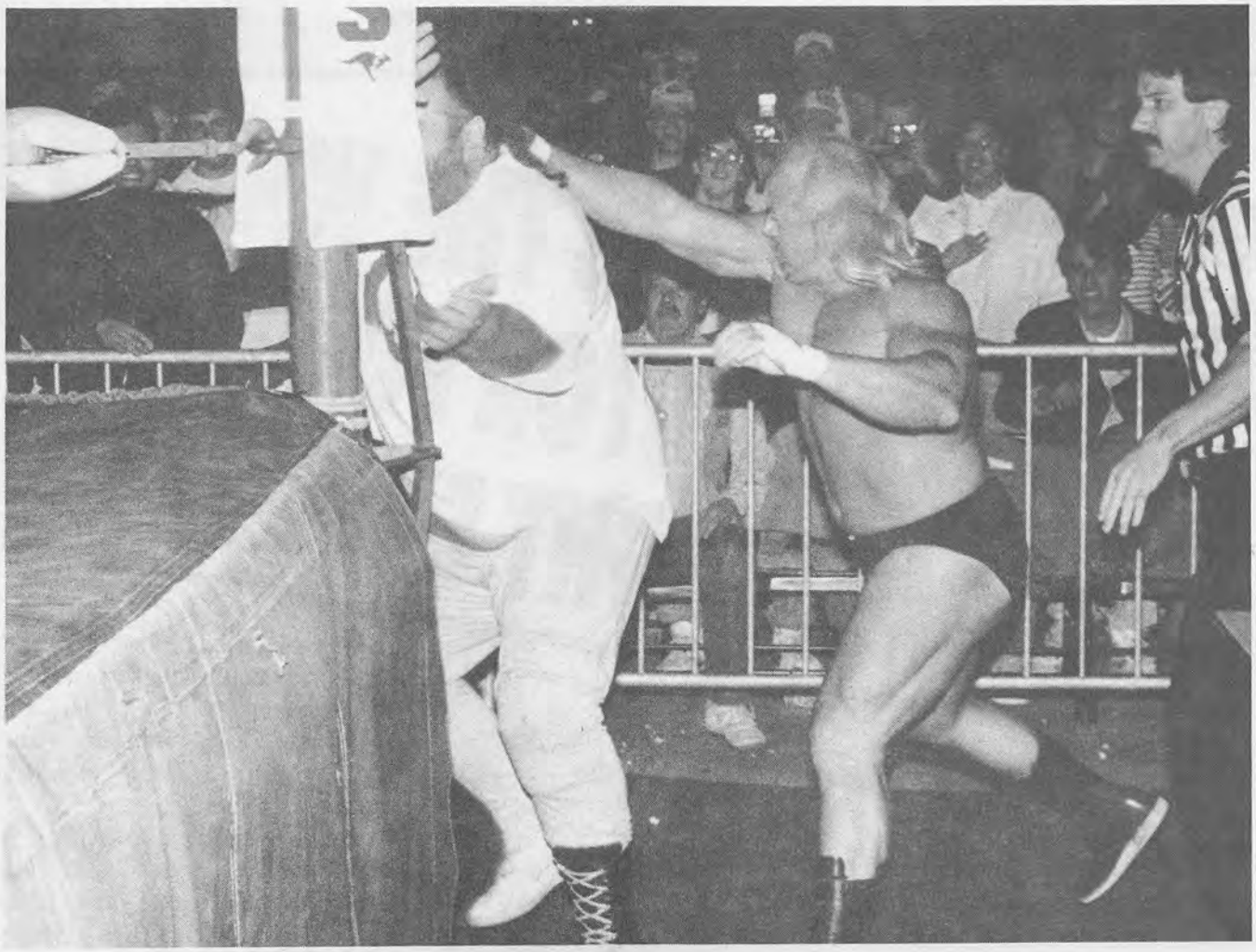
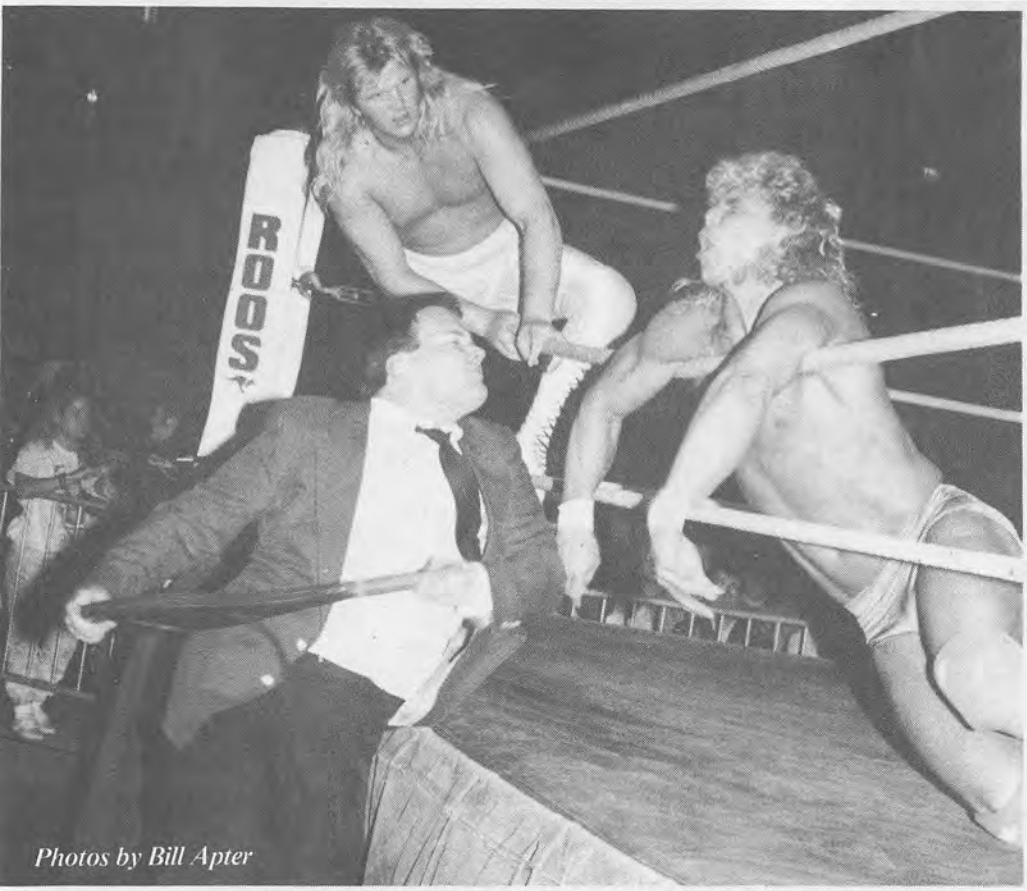


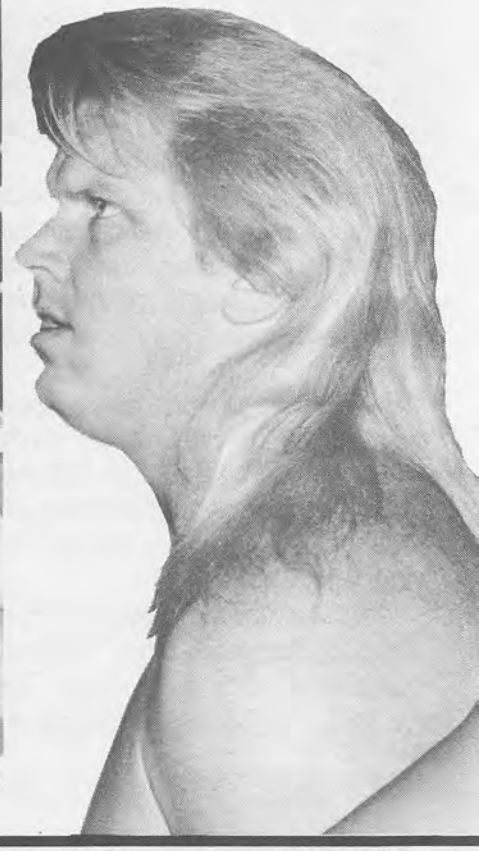
Sullivan despises everything Norman stands for, but Mike Rotundo, Norman's closest ally, says Sullivan antagonizes Norman at his own risk. Norman may be slow to anger, Rotundo says, but get him riled up and you're in trouble.



Photos by Bill Apter



Photos by Bill Apter



Jim Cornette bashes Brian Pillman with his tennis racket. Cornette and his Midnight Express have been frustrated by Pillman and Tom Zenk.

Sports Review Analysis:

JIM CORNETTE IS THE WRONG CONDUCTOR FOR THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS

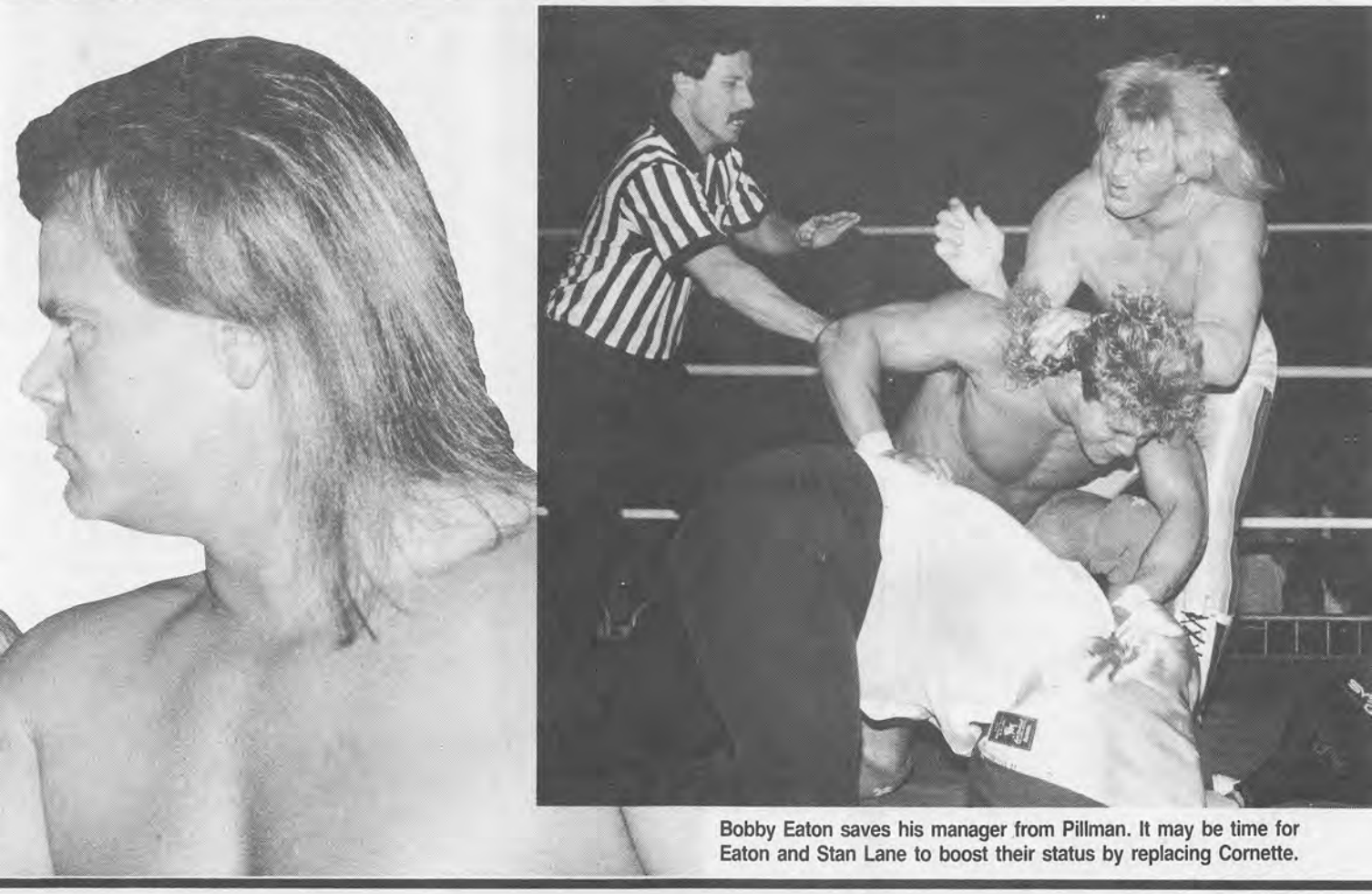
By Dave Rosenbaum

THE SHOCK THAT registered throughout the wrestling world when The Midnight Express stole the U.S. tag belts from Tom Zenk and Brian Pillman wasn't what you'd call ordinary shock.

Extraordinary shock? Maybe that's more like it. Although Stan Lane and Bobby Eaton aren't above committing even the grossest rulebook offenses, stealing tag team belts has never been in their repertoire. *Winning* belts, however, has.

But maybe that's not the case anymore. Maybe the days when the Midnights could walk into any ring in the world and have a reasonable shot of walking out with a tag team title are over.

The staff of *Sports Review Wrestling* however, doesn't quite buy that theory (although it's very popular with fans of Zenk and Pillman). We think the Midnights have a



Bobby Eaton saves his manager from Pillman. It may be time for Eaton and Stan Lane to boost their status by replacing Cornette.

It's been a long time since The Midnight Express held a tag team title, and they haven't been getting any closer to one lately. The solution for Bobby Eaton and Stan Lane is shockingly clear: Fire Jim Cornette!

problem, but it's not with themselves.

It's with Jim Cornette.

This might sound like heresy to those who call Cornette the most brilliant manager in the sport. Indeed, the editors of this magazine have long acknowledged Cornette's extraordinary wrestling mind.

He is the man who realized that the team of Eaton and Dennis Condrey wasn't going anywhere, then replaced Condrey with Stan Lane. It was a bold move and it worked.

He is the man who engineered several outstanding title victories by the new Midnights, to the point where Eaton and Lane were the only tag team to hold the NWA World and U.S. tag titles simultaneously.

Cornette drove Paul E. Dangerously out of town, he mobilized the fans behind the once-hated Midnights, then made the Midnights hated again. His commentary on NWA TV programs is positively brilliant. He has a quick wit and a sharp tongue.

But it's time for him to say goodbye to Lane and Eaton. Or, more to the point, it's time for Lane and Eaton to say goodbye to Cornette.

We don't doubt that Cornette is still a brilliant tactician. Certainly, there are many tag teams that would benefit greatly from his expertise. But the Midnights need new blood; Cornette has done everything for them that he can. The well is dry.

There have been similar situations in other pro sports. Al Arbour stepped down as coach of hockey's New York Islanders after years of Stanley Cup glory. Although he eventually returned to the Islanders, he left because the Islanders needed new blood.

In other words, every athlete or team of athletes needs a constant infusion of new ideas. Eventually, their strategies and habits become well-known and easily countered. The Express has reached that point.

"It's an interesting point," Zenk said. "And while I'm not going to

say whether I agree or disagree, it's true that Cornette has been around for a long time and he does the same things over and over again. He's become a very predictable person, but that doesn't mean the Midnights are an easy target."

Nonetheless, at what point is a sneak-attack no longer sneaky?

"It's very difficult for a manager to stay fresh," former manager Capt. Lou Albano conceded. "You always need new ideas, new talent, new everything, which I was always able to come up with, but it got tougher and tougher as I went along.

"Fortunately, I always had new teams, so you have different philosophies for different teams. Cornette's been managing the same team forever. I never had to deal with what he's going through. He probably doesn't even realize what's going on."

He doesn't. Cornette refused to discuss this subject with *Sports Review Wrestling.*

"It's ridiculous," Cornette said. "I'm still the greatest manager in the world, I've got the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Tag Team of the Year and Manager of the Year plaques to prove it, and that's all that needs to be said."

Lane and Eaton, too, refused to discuss the issue.

"Jim Cornette isn't only the manager of the Midnight Express, he *is* the Midnight Express," Lane said. "He was here long before I was, it's his concept, and it's preposterous to even think about him not being around. If you want us to fire him, you're out of your minds."

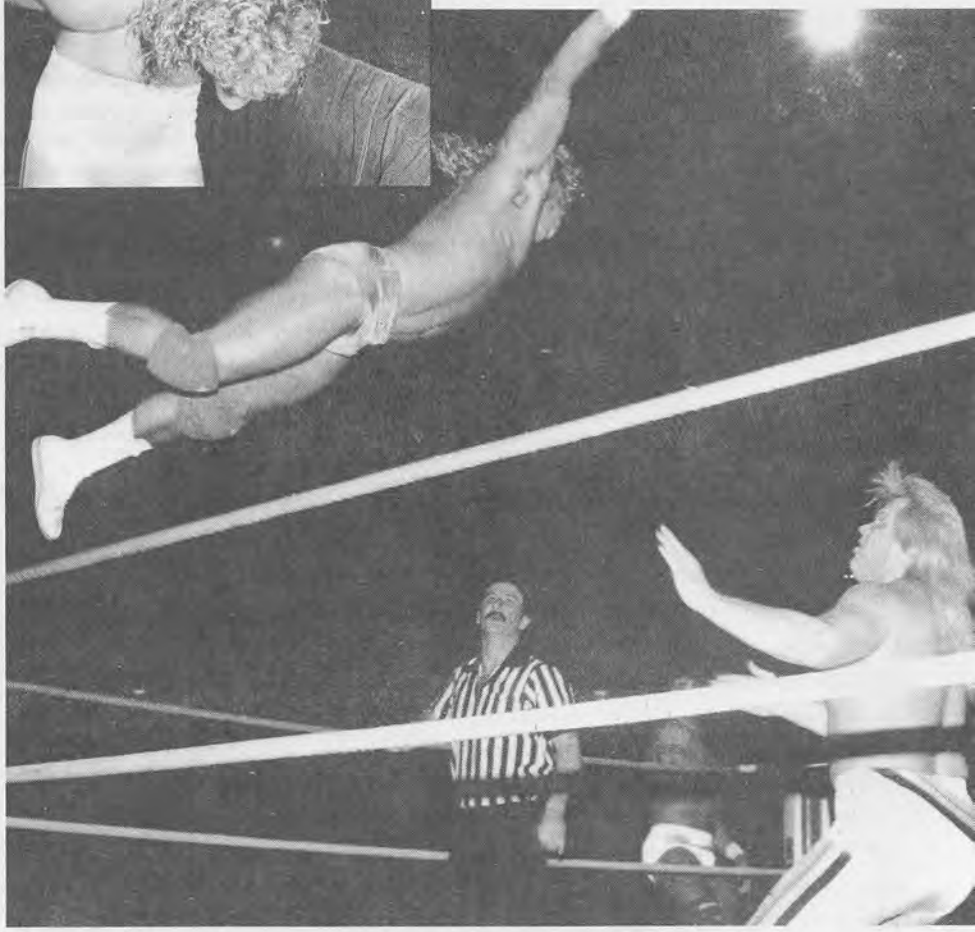
Unfortunately, Lane doesn't realize that he would probably be the next victim of a Cornette housecleaning.

Very soon, Cornette is going to realize that the Midnights are going nowhere. He is not going to blame himself for his misfortune. He is very close with Eaton. Who will take the brunt of the blame? Lane, most likely.

That's why the Express must act now.

Should they hire a new manager? Not necessarily. Lane and Eaton are smart enough to get by on their own.

But are they smart enough—and do they have guts enough—to fire Cornette? □



Zenk and Pillman backdrop Eaton (top left). Zenk hits Eaton with a flying bodypress (above). Eaton slams Pillman outside the ring (left). "Air Pillman" goes in for a landing on Eaton (below). The Midnights went so far as to steal the U.S. tag team title belts from Zenk and Pillman.

THIS MONTH IN...

Inside Wrestling

Our urgent plea to **ULTIMATE WARRIOR** & **HULK HOGAN:** Team up and clean up the WWF!

Bruised and battered victims agree: Wrestling **THE STEINERS** is like being in a car crash!

PLUS . . .

An exclusive "Hotseat" interview with **STING**: "I have nightmares about **RIC FLAIR**!" . . . **EARTHQUAKE** aftershock! Find out how one wrestler is shaking up the WWF . . . Learn all about tantalizing **TESSA'S** plan to control Texas . . . **JOE BLANCHARD** and **TULLY BLANCHARD** face off "One on One"

All this and much more . . .
in the July 1990 issue of
Inside Wrestling

ON SALE NOW!

The Wrestler

Now that **DUSTY RHODES** has taken care of **RANDY SAVAGE**, he deserves a title shot—any title shot—NOW!

My 10 challenges to **RIC FLAIR**—an exclusive story by **LEX LUGER**

PLUS . . .

TEDDY LONG'S revitalized **DOOM**: unmasked and unmerciful! . . . **LANNY POFFO'S** career goes from bad to verse in our "Ode To A WWF 'Genius' " . . . **JIMMY VALIANT** targets **JERRY LAWLER** . . . An exclusive "Q & A" interview with **TULLY BLANCHARD**

All this and much more . . .
in the July 1990 issue of
The Wrestler

ON SALE NOW!

SPORTS REVIEW

INTERVIEW

OLE ANDERSON

OLE ANDERSON HAS always been the kind of man who likes to take care of business by himself.

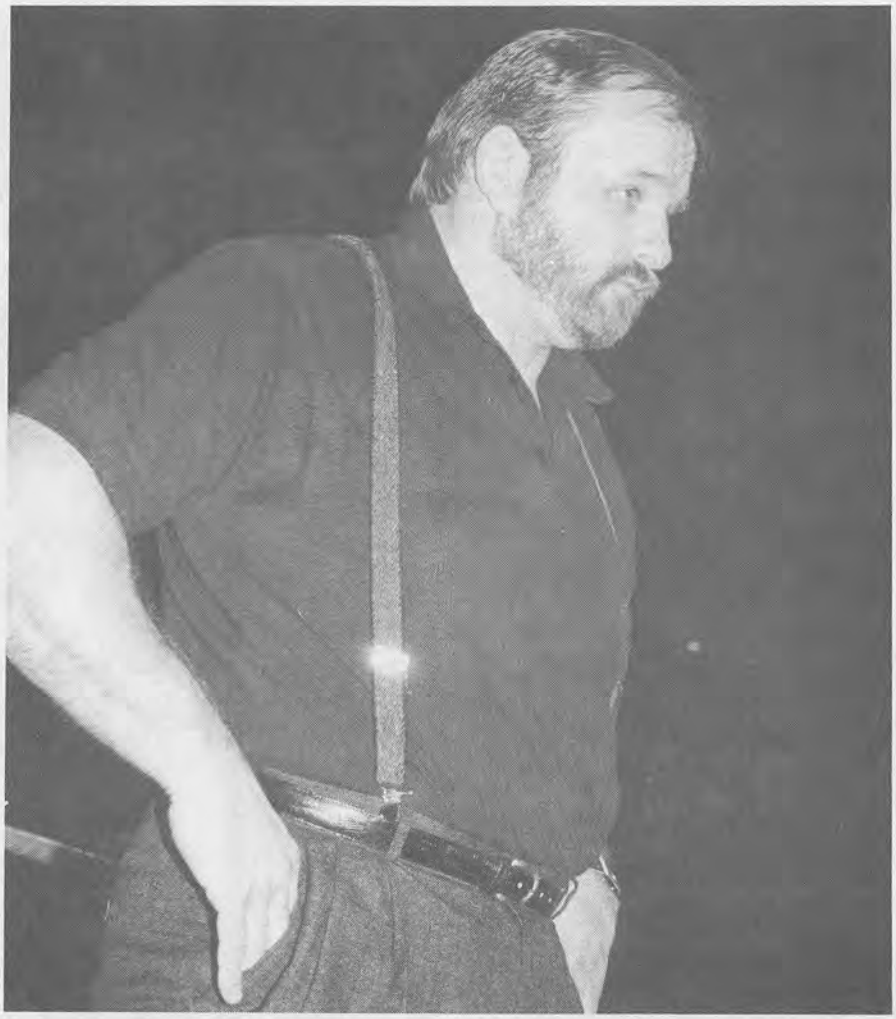
Ole walks by himself, talks for himself, and—even in tag teams, where he's made his greatest impact in the ring—wrestles for himself. Ole's former Four Horseman partner Tully Blanchard used to say, "We're the greatest combination in the sport because each one of us takes care of his own butt."

But look at what's happening now in the NWA: Ole isn't wrestling, he's managing. Ole isn't doing, he's directing. It's drastically out of character, and the results haven't been as expected.

Shortly after his return to the NWA, Ole targeted World tag team champions Rick and Scott Steiner for destruction. Ole and Arn Anderson nearly won the belts, but then a strange thing happened: Ole turned manager and brought in a masked team called The Minnesota Wrecking Crew II to take care of his business.

This was strange for two reasons. First, Ole and Arn appeared to be in good position to win the belts. Second, Ole and Arn were the Minnesota Wrecking Crew, having taken over that name from the duo of Ole and Gene Anderson. Why would Ole imitate himself?

And make no mistake about it: Crew II has been a poor imitation of either incarnation of Crew I. They have fallen far short of winning the belts from the Steiners. Still, Ole refuses to get frustrated.



Ole Anderson is a crafty veteran who's been in this sport long enough to know that he's not going to succeed unless he has some reliable allies backing him up. Among them are the Horsemen and Minnesota Wrecking Crew II.

He also refuses to keep his nose out of NWA World champion Ric Flair's business. Ole and Woman have been instrumental in helping Flair save his title. Did somebody say outside interference? Ole, as usual, pleads not guilty, though the evidence is overwhelmingly damning.

But can Ole really ignore the facts? Faced one-on-one with ***Sports Review Wrestling*** *Senior Writer Dave Rosenbaum, could he really deny that his career has taken a strange (some might say downward) turn?*

Read on and find out.

Q: Ole Anderson, it seems as if things are getting awfully cold in Minnesota.

A: What the heck do you mean by that wise remark, you little punk? I love you reporters, always beating around the bush, never willing to ask a question straight out because you know I'll twist your heads off.

Q: Actually, Minnesota Wrecking Crew II is nowhere in sight, neither is Woman, so I don't think I have anything to worry about.

A: Listen, I'm letting you survive this interview with all your teeth intact because I've got something to say. People have been talking about me, and, quite frankly, I don't like it. So I'm going to tell it like it is.

Q: Our readers are waiting to read what you have to say. Go on.

A: Like I said before, the Steiners have said some bad things about The Four Horsemen, and I don't like it. The Four Horsemen are the greatest thing to ever happen to the NWA. Just look at history. Look at what we've done. Flair with all those World title reigns, Arn and Tully with the World tag titles, Luger, if I dare mention that wimp's name, and even Barry Windham, wherever *he* is. Throughout wrestling history, the Horsemen have . . .

Ole watches intently as Crew II works on Scott Steiner (above). Ole, who teamed with both Gene and Arn Anderson in earlier incarnations of the Minnesota Wrecking Crew, has also lent his advice to Ric Flair and Woman (below).

Q: One second. This isn't supposed to be a commercial for the Horsemen. We want to know why you stopped wrestling. We want to know why you brought in these masked wrestlers who, from all appearances, can't do much wrestling at all. We want to know why you stand at ringside with Woman and interfere in Flair's matches. Most of all, we want to know why you've become an observer.

A: You know what, Mr. Reporter, you're a liar. You just don't know what the hell you're talking about. Let's get this straight: I'm doing things the way *I* want to do them. I haven't retired, although people have been talking that way. I've just chosen a different way of go-

ing about business . . . for now.

Q: And later?

A: What are you talking about? You're speaking in tongues, boy.

Q: Later. Will we see Ole Anderson in the ring once again?

A: Maybe. Maybe not.

Q: Okay, so how about the Minnesota Wrecking Crew, the *original* Minnesota Wrecking Crew. What happens to them?

A: Me and Gene? We won our share of World tag team titles. Me and Arn? Damn solid team, finest *you've* ever seen, you snot-nosed little . . . Look, this is the way it is: I've chosen a new way of going about business.

Q: Well, not *too* new. You're still giving Flair a helping hand whenever he needs it. Which seems to be every match. Do you really think Flair needs your interference? Personally, I think he was wrestling much better when he knew he had to do things on his own.

A: He still does things on his own. It's just that when the referee doesn't do his job, I have to take over.

Q: It's a good thing Woman wears spiked heels.

A: Excuse me?

Q: Never mind.

A: Don't give me this "never mind" crap. You're implying that I need a woman to help me take care of my business. Well, I've never needed anybody before, and I don't need anybody now. I'm an independent contractor. That's the way it is.

Q: You keep saying that's the way it is, but we *still* don't know how it is. Let's take this one step at a time. Why did you bring in the Minnesota Wrecking Crew II?

A: Because I felt they could do the job.

Q: And you can't?

A: I didn't say that. I felt they could do the job. I have other business to attend to.

Q: I'm not going to ask you what *that* is.

A: And I'm not going to tell you.

Q: Fine. Next question: Why are you always at ringside for Flair's matches?

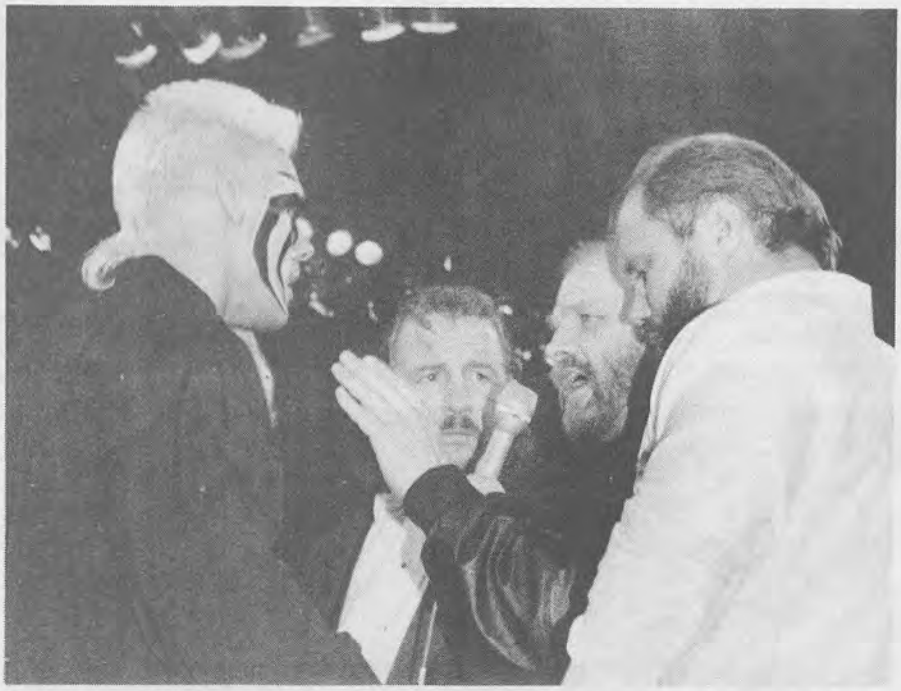
A: I like watching the World champion, the greatest wrestler in the sport today, wrestle.

Q: Fine. When can we look forward to Ole Anderson returning to the ring?

A: You can always look forward to it, but it's not going to happen until I say so. On the other hand, it could happen at any time. That's the beauty part.

Q: Fine. Now let's say the Minnesota Wrecking Crew II fails . . .

A: And let's say you're barking up the wrong tree. They are *not* going to fail, because Ole Anderson doesn't fail. I have a question for *you:*



Ole was the driving force behind the move to kick Sting out of the Horsemen (above); Anderson seems to take a perverse pride in Sting's knee injury. So far, Crew II hasn't had much success against the Steiners (below).

Ole and Arn Anderson once feuded, but they've forgotten their differences to make the Horsemen a stronger team.

When was the last time Ole Anderson *didn't* get what he wanted?

Q: When you and Arn failed to win the belts from the Steiners.

A: Yes, and tell me, little man: Just how is Scott Steiner's arm feeling this morning? And how is Sting's leg feeling today?

Q: You know, that's something else I wanted to ask you about. You and Arn and Flair put Sting out of action for the better part of 1990, and you seem to be very proud of that.

A: You'd better believe it. Listen, one thing a lot of people don't seem to understand is that wrestling ain't figure skating. It ain't tiddly winks. Heck, it makes rugby look like a walk in the park on Sunday afternoon. Men like me and Arn and Ric are what wrestling is all about. That's just a fact of life.

Q: An unfortunate fact of life.

A: Maybe so, but wrestling is more exciting because of men like us. We've given the NWA the rugged reputation it deserves. We'll always be around. We're a team. But even better, we're our own men. We like to have things both ways, and we always do.

Q: And I'd like to ask you some more about Sting, and the . . .

A: Get out of here, you punk. This interview is history. □

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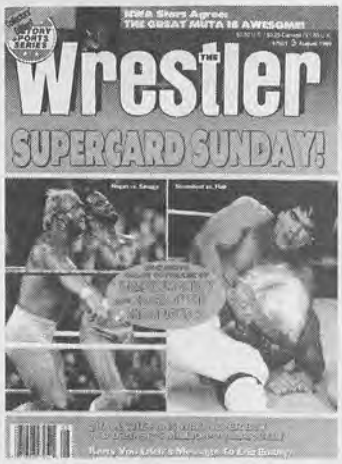

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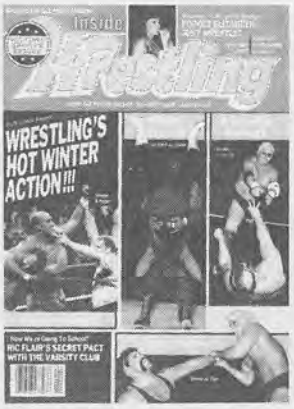

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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 5)

Sexton the chance to move from the bottom of the card to the top. That's what I call progress.

I'm also extremely impressed with the athletic skills of these women. In particular, I point out Madusa Miceli. She's 10 times better than she was as AWA women's champion. I can't believe some of the moves she does. I'll predict that she'll soon be champion.

If the LPWA succeeds, it will prove to those promoters who have ignored women's wrestling how mistaken they were. Hopefully, more people will discover how skilled these women are.

JASON THORUNBURG
White Bear Lake, MN

GOOD-BYE, CHU-HI

When I read in "Tattler" (May 1990) that P.Y. Chu-Hi and his manager, Tojo Yamamoto, had been kicked out of the USWA, I nearly jumped for joy! Those two were nothing but troublemakers from the moment they entered the federation. Their vicious attacks on Eric Embry and others were totally uncalled for. And now that Embry is back in the USWA, there's less of a chance that we'll ever see Chu-Hi or Yamamoto again.

TODD WELLINGTON
Freehold, NJ

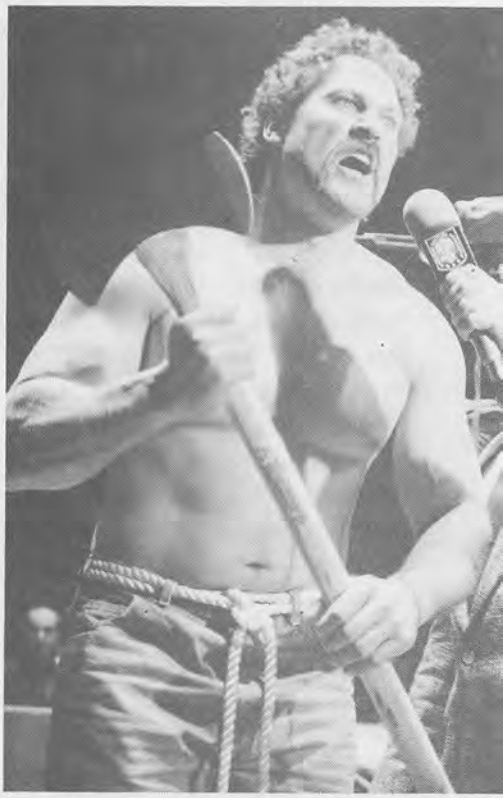
P.Y. Chu-Hi and Tojo Yamamoto sandwich Eric Embry. Chu-Hi and Yamamoto were thorns in Embry's side, so reader Todd Wellington was glad to see them banned from the USWA.

THE CALL OF NORD

In your interview with "Yukon" John Nord (May 1990), Nord said he was a changed man who had taken to reading the Bible. Well, he may be sincere, but I'm still wary of him. When he was known as Nord the Barbarian, he was extremely vicious. I don't know how thoroughly he can reform himself.

However, I'll be rooting for him, especially against men like Col. DeBeers.

RITA HOWARD
Smyrna, GA



"Yukon" John Nord may have changed his attitude, but reader Rita Howard is still wary of the man once known as a Barbarian.

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Not only is Scotty the Body a star in the PNW, writes reader Lee Hansen, he's good enough to make it in any federation. She says she can't understand why some people hate Scotty so much.

STICK BY SCOTTY

I don't see why people hate Scotty the Body so much. Maybe he is a bit arrogant, but he has proven he can win. Scotty has won both the PNW singles and tag team titles. And if that's not enough, he's beaten guys like Steve Doll and Carl Styles. If he were to go to the WWF or NWA, he'd win titles there, too. Who cares if he's also a color commentator?

In your April 1990 issue, reader Leah Monroe wrote in her letter "Scotty Nobody" that Scotty should crawl into a hole. I don't know why you would want somebody this great to crawl into a hole. Come on, give Scotty a chance.

LEE HANSEN
Winnipeg, Manitoba

TWO REFEREES

Bill Apter made a mistake in his "Locker Room Confidential" column (May 1990). In talking about the violence in the USWA, he wrote that maybe the time had come for matches with two referees.

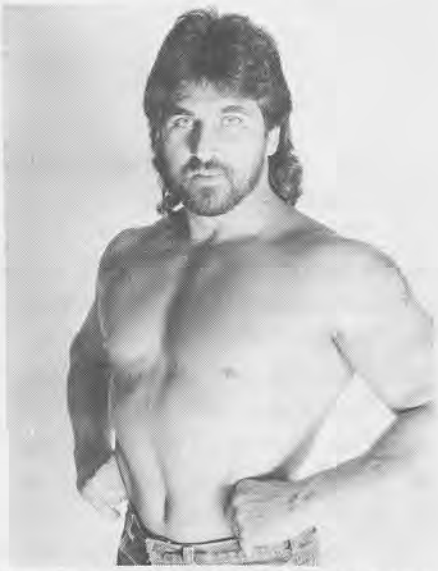
I don't know how many people are aware that, in the early 1980s, World Class (now USWA) had two referees for matches. I would never have known that if not for the *Legends Of World Class* show on ESPN. Sure, the matches are old, but they're still enjoyable, even if I know what happens.

What Bill should have asked is, "Is it time to go *back* to two referees?"

DONALD ALT
Colver, PA

COOLEY SUPPORTER

Wendell Cooley is one of the finest wrestlers to be found anywhere, but he hasn't broken in with a major federation. I would like to know why this is. He is certainly good enough to compete in the WWF, NWA, or AWA. In dozens of matches against top stars like Dennis Condrey and Tom Prichard, Wendell has proven this.



Wendell Cooley nearly beat Ric Flair a couple of years ago, and that's why reader Jerry Delaporte thinks Cooley is capable of taking on Flair again—and beating him.

A few years ago, Cooley gave NWA World champion Ric Flair a tough match and very nearly upset him for the belt. If they ever wrestled again, I bet Cooley would do even better, because he's just approaching his prime while Flair is starting to slip.

I hope this is the year that Wendell makes his move to enter the big time.

JERRY DELAPORTE
Meridien, MS

For all their talk, Ted DiBiase and his bodyguard, Virgil, have accomplished almost nothing in the WWF and should probably leave the federation, in reader Wayne Montana's view.

LESS THAN A MILLION

Let's face it, people, Ted DiBiase should stop calling himself the "Million-Dollar Man." How about the "Ten-Cent Man"? In almost three years in the WWF, all he has to show for his efforts is a meaningless bejeweled belt. If it weren't for Virgil in his corner, old Ted would be an absolute zero.

Maybe DiBiase should consider wrestling for a Ted with more money than him: Ted Turner.

WAYNE MONTANA
Charleston, SC□

SHUT OUT

(Continued from page 37)

"Even out of courtesy they could have invited me," Richter said. "Maybe women's wrestling wasn't as hot that year as it was at WrestleMania I, but they should have realized what I meant to the sport. It was just a humiliating blow, and I've never forgotten it."

Richter compared a WrestleMania snub to getting stood up at the prom.

"In many ways, it's worse, because this was my career, that's only fun and games," Richter said. "I didn't get stood up at my high school prom, but I did get stood up at WrestleMania II."

The WWF's disrespect for its women's title certainly carried over to this year. Rockin' Robin is an extremely popular champion. Her presence would have added to the luster of WrestleMania VI. But when the invitations went out, Robin wasn't on the list.

The WWF also showed its disrespect for former NWA champions. Perhaps that's why Garvin wasn't invited. Although he certainly isn't one of the best wrestlers in the WWF, he is far better than many of the wrestlers that *were* invited.

Taylor, too, has been a subject of WWF scorn ever since he entered the federation. He has been burdened with the ridiculous "Red Rooster" moniker. He has been placed low on arena cards. Perhaps the WrestleMania snub sent a clear message to Taylor: It's time to leave the WWF.

"That's one way to look at it," said Paul Orndorff, who wrestled in the 1985 "Match of the Year" at WrestleMania I. One year later, Orndorff wrestled a meaningless opening match against Don Muraco.

"The worst part about WrestleMania II is that I thought I'd be

wrestling Hogan," Orndorff said. "Not getting a title match in itself was just as good as getting left off the card. Of course, I could have just packed my bags and left the WWF, but that's not the way I am.

"You have to fight," Orndorff said. "A WrestleMania snub is a message, but it's not a message that it's time to leave. It's a message that it's time to ship up, it's time to get things in gear. I was underachieving. That didn't last for long."

Wendi Richter's WWF World women's title victory over Fabulous Moolah in 1984 (above) led to her title match at the first WrestleMania in 1985. Paul Orndorff wrestled in the main event on that card, but at WrestleMania II he faced Don Muraco in a prelim bout (right).

Orndorff went on to wrestle Hogan in the main event of the "Main Event" card on August 28, 1986, at Exhibition Stadium in Toronto; the match drew over 74,000 fans. Still, Orndorff admitted that he was hurt by the WrestleMania II snub.

"It's the biggest card of the year, sure. But more important, it's the biggest payday of the year in any federation," Orndorff said. "For many wrestlers, it makes their whole year. You work 364 days for that one day, that one day that makes all the hard work worth it. When you don't get invited to the dance, it hurts in the pockets more than it hurts in the heart."

As Orndorff said, however, a WrestleMania snub is often a message to the uninvited wrestler.

In this instance, Garvin wasted most of the year acting as a biased referee. When he returned to the ring, his performance was uninspired, dull, and far below the standards he set as NWA champion.

Rockin' Robin has defended her title infrequently. Maybe the WWF is telling Robin to defend her title more often and not wait for the big payday.

Taylor has been a great disappointment since arriving in the WWF. He was a star in Texas, the UWF, and NWA, one of the most promising young talents in the sport. Taylor hasn't fulfilled his potential.

"Every year, there are a few wrestlers that don't make it," said one WWF star that *did* make it this year. "You hope you're not the one to get passed over. But more importantly, you work to make *sure* you're not the one. It's very important. Hey, it's the most important card of the year."

And the ones who *don't* make it don't feel so important anymore.

A WrestleMania snub, in fact, is more than humiliating . . . it's downright career-threatening. □

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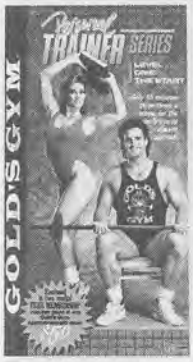

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(Continued from page 6)

team matches against Hulk Hogan and Brutus Beefcake during 1989, has a small role in the action/comedy film *Think Big.* The low-budget picture is, at press time, in limited release at theaters around the country.

—Butch Gallagher

MEMPHIS, TN: After narrowly escaping with his USWA title intact following a violent series of matches with Jimmy Valiant, Jerry Lawler has decided to get some assistance in the form of rotund manager Ronnie P. Gossett. Lawler has shocked many of his longtime followers by hiring Gossett as his new adviser.

RONALD P. GOSSETT

"As far as I'm concerned, no one's got a shrewder mind than Ronnie," said Lawler, who has also used Gen. Skandor Akbar and Nate the Rat in a similar capacity in the past few months. "Valiant cheated to score a couple of pinfalls over me, but with big Gossett around, that's all in the past. Nobody's ever gonna take advantage of me again."

Actually, the addition of Gossett has given Lawler an unfair advantage. During a recent bout here, Gossett threw Lawler a chain while he was wrestling newcomer Mike Awesome. Lawler grabbed the chain, hit Awesome in the head, and covered him for a disputed pinfall. Later on the same card, Lawler wrestled a second match, against Chris Champion. Again, Gossett threw Lawler a chain to aid "The King" in an illegal victory.

"My kind of strategies are what Lawler has needed for a long time," said Gossett, who managed Wildside—Champion and Mark Starr—to the CWA tag team title in 1989. "It's hard to believe that I once feuded with Jerry. With me around to guide him, Lawler will be the most invincible man in this sport."

Gossett has also been busy with several other grapplers. In addition to advising Lawler, he is managing The Dirty White Boys—Alex Porteau and Tony Anthony—who are contending for the USWA tag team title held by Rex King and Steve Doll. He has also taken on the contract of veteran Lou Winston, a former member of the Memphis Vice tag team with the late Jerry Bryant.

—Randy Swift

EUGENE, OR: The Pacific Northwest title was held up after a controversial decision in a match between champion Curtis Thompson and Scotty the Body on March 30

here.

The hotly contested bout saw Thompson using his edge in power to keep the wily Scotty off-guard. The arrogant New Jersey native, however, used leverage from the ropes to pin Thompson and seemingly recapture the title that he has held twice in the past.

Referee C.W. Bergstrom handed the belt to Scotty, who prepared to leave the ring with it. But when ringside fans informed Bergstrom about the way that Scotty had pinned Thompson, he ordered that the title be held up.

CURTIS THOMPSON

"I'm glad I'm wrestling in the PNW," said the muscular Thompson, who held the belt since defeating Scotty on February 3 in Portland. "At least the officials take heed of the fans here. Everybody in the arena saw that Scotty used those ropes. I'm sorry they didn't completely overturn the decision, but at least now I know I'll get a chance to get the title back."

Scotty, however, was livid about the decision. "This is just an excuse to keep me from holding that belt for a third time," he fumed. "Well, let them try all they want. Once I cripple Thompson, they'll have no excuse but to award me the belt."

—Garrett Miller □

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AUGUST 1989/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Martel, Sting, Studd, Morton, Ultimate, Sheik, Funk, PWF.

OCTOBER 1989/Stories include: Rhodes, Savage, Steamboat-Flair, Muta, WrestleMania V, Cornette.

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WRESTLEMANIA VI

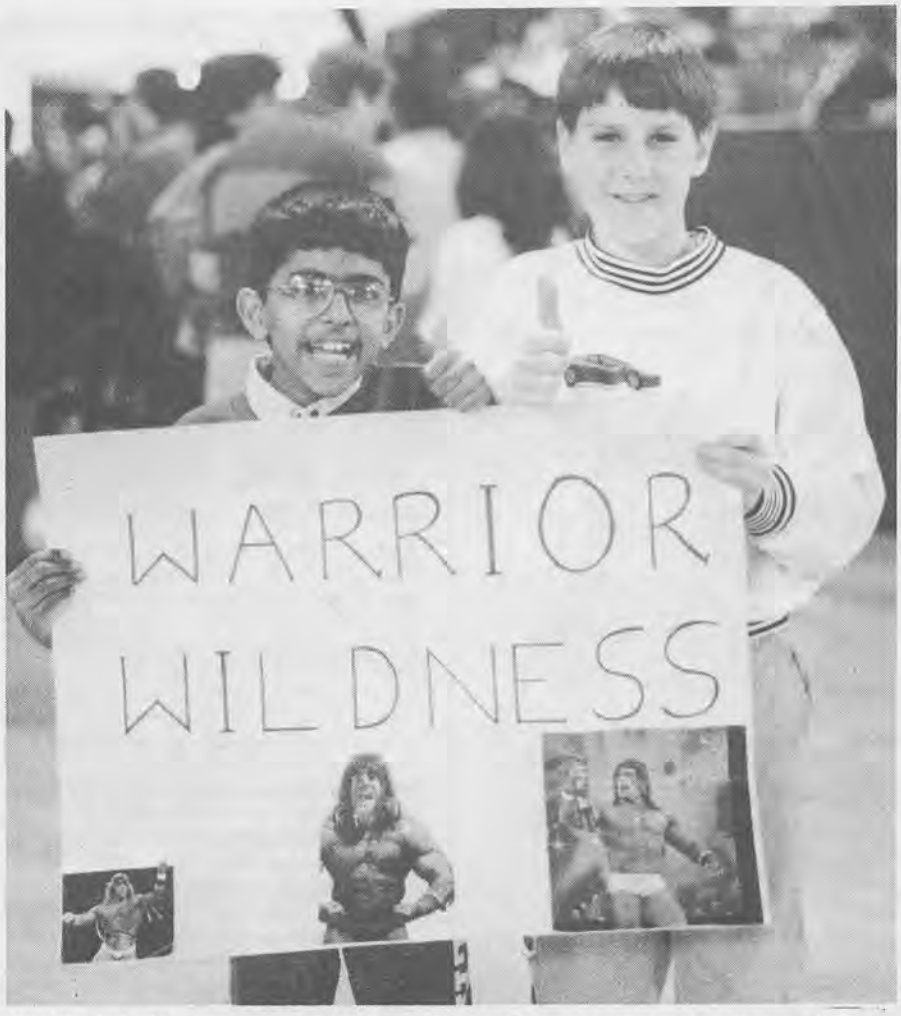
(Continued from page 25)

dominate his way to a decisive pinfall victory. After the decision, Earthquake delivered an "aftershock"—a leap on the chest—to Hercules. ***Time of the match: 4:52.***

Curt Hennig vs. Brutus Beefcake: Beefcake, lusting for revenge from Hennig's attack at the Royal Rumble in January, began the match furiously, sending Hennig flying over the top rope twice after some vicious punches and an atomic kneedrop. Later, Hennig slammed Beefcake over the head with Lanny Poffo's metal scroll, but "The Barber" kicked out after a two-count. Hennig dominated for the next few minutes, but a desperation move by Beefcake—a slingshot that sent "Mr. Perfect" careening headfirst into the ringpost—gave "The Barber" a pinfall victory. After the match, Poffo tried to escape to the dressing room with Beefcfake's scissors, but Beefcake caught him and did a repeat performance of the haircut he gave him at the Rumble. ***Time of the match: 7:48.***

Roddy Piper vs. Bad News Brown: The grudge between these brawlers also began at the Royal Rumble, when Piper ousted Brown and Bad News came back and ousted Piper. For this match, Piper painted half his body black in an apparently racially motivated attempt at psychological warfare. The match was a war from the outset, and referee Danny Davis had difficulty controlling the action. Late in the match, Piper pulled a loaded glove out of his trunks and used it to hammer away on Brown. When the action spilled out of the ring, Davis counted both men out. ***Time of the match: 6:48.***

The Hart Foundation vs. The Bolsheviks: Bret Hart and Jim Neidhart attacked Boris Zukhov and Nikolai Volkoff during the singing of the Russian national anthem. Neidhart held Zukhov in a bearhug, and Hart delivered a "Hart attack" clothesline and scored the pinfall victory. ***Time of the match: 19 seconds.***



The Warrior's fans came to the SkyDome to see their man win, and they weren't disappointed. Warrior's impressive victory made him the first man to hold both the World and Intercontinental titles at the same time.

Tito Santana vs. The Barbarian: The match began slowly as Santana found it difficult to counter Barbarian's power. Santana scored a two-count following a vertical press, but Barbarian kicked out easily. The advantage shifted several times until Barbarian caught Santana with a clothesline from the top rope, leading to an easy pinfall. ***Time of the match: 4:33.***

Randy Savage & Sensational Sherri vs. Dusty Rhodes & Sapphire: The SkyDome crowd was stunned as Rhodes brought Elizabeth to ringside for the WWF's first-ever mixed tag team match. Dusty worked well with Sapphire in the early going, and their teamwork caused several Savage-Sherri collisions. Sapphire scored a two-count when Sherri collapsed under her weight attempting a slam. Savage battled back with two axhandles to Rhodes outside the ring, and used his scepter on the "Dream." But Elizabeth proved to be the difference in this confrontation: Moments after she threw Sherri back into the ring following a Sapphire toss, Elizabeth shoved Sherri backward into Sapphire, who was on her hands and knees. Sherri fell to the mat and Sapphire scrambled on top of her to score the pinfall. ***Time of the match: 7:32.***

The Orient Express vs. The Rockers:

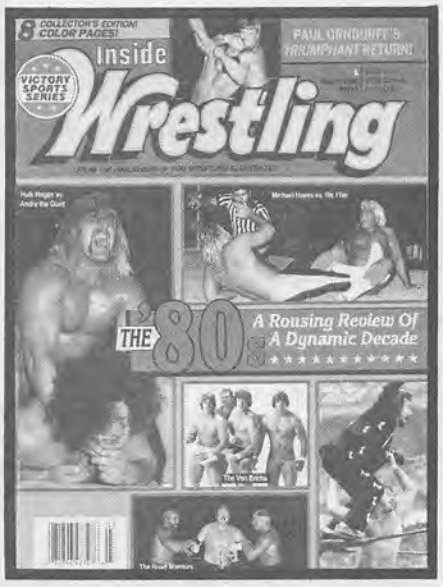
The SkyDome in Toronto hosted the first WrestleMania to take place outside the United States. More than 67,000 fans witnessed the historic event live.

Pat Tanaka and Marty Jannetty started the match for their respective teams, but it didn't take long before all four men were in the ring. The Rockers got the best of the four-way brawl, sending Tanaka and Akio Sato out of the ring to regroup. Once the action returned to the ring, the Express' manager, Mr. Fuji, hooked the top rope with his cane, causing Jannetty to fall to the arena floor where he was attacked by Sato. The Rockers managed to withstand a formidable attack, and prepared to deliver a double-flying fistdrop from the top turnbuckles on Tanaka when Fuji hit Jannetty in the leg with his cane. When the Rocker went after Fuji, Sato snuck up from behind and threw salt in Jannetty's eyes, resulting in a very tainted countout victory for the Express. ***Time of the match: 7:38.***

Dino Bravo vs. Hacksaw Duggan: Duggan floored Bravo at the outset with a pair of clotheslines, the second of which sent Bravo out of the ring. Bravo returned and gained the advantage with an inverted atomic spinecrusher and an elbowsmash. When Duggan got into his three-point stance, Earthquake (who was at ringside for Bravo) tried to interfere. As Duggan dealt with Earthquake, Jimmy Hart threw Duggan's 2 x 4 to Bravo. Duggan got the 2 x 4 first, smashed Bravo in the back, and scored the pinfall. Earthquake attacked Duggan after the decision, delivering two elbowsmashes and three "aftershocks" to Hacksaw. ***Time of the match: 4:15.***

Ted DiBiase vs. Jake Roberts: The "million-dollar belt" was up for grabs in this match. "The Snake" surprised DiBiase when he went for the DDT several times early in the bout, causing DiBiase to scramble out of the ring to break Roberts' momentum. But even after DiBiase returned to the ring, Roberts maintained the advantage with a hammerlock. After overcoming a stern offensive effort by DiBiase, Roberts caught him with two clotheslines, a backdrop, and a short clothesline. When Roberts was moving in for the pin, Virgil grabbed his tights. Roberts left the ring and slammed Virgil on the arena floor. DiBiase snuck up behind Roberts and clamped on a sleeperhold. As Roberts tried to escape the hold, both men hit the steel ringpost. Virgil rolled a groggy DiBiase into the ring to give him the countout victory. After the match, Roberts attacked DiBiase and threw several of his $100 bills to the ringside fans. ***Time of the match: 11:56.***

(Continued on page 56)



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WRESTLEMANIA VI

(Continued from page 55)

From "Ultimate Challenge" sweatshirts to Hulk Hogan teddy bears, there was a wide assortment of souvenirs from which to choose at the SkyDome.

Akeem vs. Big Bossman: DiBiase ambushed Bossman before the opening bell, and slammed his head into the ringpost before rolling him into the ring. Akeem took the early advantage with ease, but a kick to the face broke Akeem's momentum, and Bossman whipped his foe from corner to corner. One clothesline and a side-slam later, Bossman scored the quick pin. ***Time of the match: 1:49.***

Rick Rude vs. Jimmy Snuka: Rude attacked Snuka before the opening bell to gain the early advantage. Rude missed with a dropkick, allowing Snuka to mount a comeback. Snuka stunned Rude with a dropkick that sent Rude sailing over the top rope. Rude tried a quick sunset flip, but Snuka punched out. Snuka kept the advantage until he missed with a second-rope headbutt, allowing Rude to deliver a "Rude awakening" neckbreaker and score the pin. ***Time of the match: 3:51.***

Hulk Hogan vs. The Ultimate Warrior: Both WWF singles titles—the Warrior's Intercontinental belt and Hogan's World belt—were on the line in this classic encounter.

The first few minutes of the match were a standoff as neither man was able to gain any sort of an advantage. After an even test of strength, Hogan dropped Warrior to the mat and got the first two-count of the match following an elbowsmash. Warrior slammed Hogan to the mat and followed up by clotheslining Hogan over the top rope, a move that injured Hogan's left knee. Warrior left the ring and planted two kicks to the knee, then returned to the ring as referee Dave Hebner tended to Hogan.

Warrior concentrated his attack on the knee, but Hogan quickly recovered. Hogan threw Warrior into the corner, clotheslined him, and mounted the ropes to deliver eight hard punches to Warrior's head. A slam and two elbows later, Hogan had his second two-count of the match; his third came moments later after a small package pin attempt.

Twelve minutes into the match,

Warrior began to rally. Three elbows to Hogan's midsection broke a chinlock, but seconds later both men were flat on the mat following a double-clothesline. Hogan and Warrior staggered to their feet, but Warrior was clearly gaining his second wind: A series of Hogan smashes to Warrior's back had no effect whatsoever. Three clotheslines by the Warrior had the two-time champion reeling.

Warrior scored with a suplex and a powerful bearhug that lasted nearly three minutes. Hogan broke out of the hold by punching Warrior. Moments later, Hebner was knocked out when Warrior rebounded off the ropes and into the official. Both men traded pin attempts, but Hebner was out cold.

Still groggy, Hebner dragged himself to his knees, saw Warrior pinning Hogan, and made a two-count. Hogan scored a quick two-count on Warrior, then sent Warrior over the top rope with an elbow to the face. Outside the ring, Warrior smashed Hogan's head into the ringpost. When the action returned to the ring, Warrior clotheslined Hogan and followed up with a gorilla-press and a splash; incredibly, he only gained a two-count.

At this point, it appeared that Hogan was going to mount one of his famous comebacks. The Hogan "look" was in full evidence: His eyes bulged with determination as he pummeled Warrior and sent him reeling into the ropes. When Warrior rebounded, Hogan delivered a foot to his face, then went for a legdrop. But Warrior rolled out of the way, splashed the prostrate Hogan, and covered him for the pin.

After the match, Hogan entered the ring, handed the Warrior the WWF belt, and raised his arm in victory in an emotional display of sportsmanship. The crowd gave both men a standing ovation as Hogan and the Warrior hugged in the center of the ring. ***Time of the match: 22:51.*** □

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INQUIRING REPORTER

(Continued from page 12)

belts. There are many fine wrestlers—Hogan included—who deserve to be a champion. I'm afraid Warrior would hold on to both belts for a long time and discourage other wrestlers."

Larry Prowley, Plano, TX: "I'd like to see Warrior defend both titles at once. Imagine wrestling Hogan for the World belt one night, and the next night taking on Dino Bravo or Curt Hennig for the I-C title. There'd be a game in seeing which belt—if any—he'd lose first. So let him keep both and let's see how well he does. I think he'll surprise us."

Warrior made quick work of The Honky Tonk Man in winning his first Intercontinental title at SummerSlam '88 (left). Warrior then lost the belt to Rick Rude and recaptured it at SummerSlam '89 (above).

Lori Fulton, Winnipeg, Manitoba: "In other federations, wrestlers have been allowed to hold two titles at once. For example, in 1985 Hercules Hernandez held both the Florida and Southern belts at once. He didn't have them for long, but he was allowed to keep both. Granted, Warrior's titles are of a much wider scope, but the same principle should apply."

Greg Johannen, Minot, ND: "Defending both belts at once is one challenge I don't think the Warrior can live up to. He may be close to superhuman, but how can you expect him to withstand the kind of pressure he'll face as a dual champion? Years ago, they didn't let Bob Backlund hold the World and tag team titles at the same time, and they shouldn't let Warrior hold two belts, either."

Sal Aponte, Catskill, NY: "Unlike Hogan, Warrior is man enough to defend both at once. Technically, you only have to defend the World title once every 30 days. Warrior won't go that far, but figure he can put up the World belt about five or six times a month, and the Intercontinental title the rest of the time. He could go like that for a long time."

Helen Weinstein, Zanesville, OH: "With his fairly long Intercontinental title reign, Warrior has proven that he's a worthy champion, so he shouldn't have to give up that belt just because he was good enough to win the World title. If he wants to give up one belt voluntarily, that's fine, but he

has way too much pride ever to consider that."

Yolanda Jones, Columbia, SC: "There should be a tournament for the I-C belt. No man should ever be allowed to hold two belts at once, no matter how great he is. As it is, the WWF only has two titles. With all those talented men there, it just isn't fair for Warrior to hold both those titles. What will he do next, take a partner and go after the tag team title?"

Jeffrey Goulding, Toronto, Ontario: "I was at the SkyDome when Warrior beat Hogan, and let me tell you, the excitement was incredible! At that moment, I felt like the Warrior would reign for 100 years. Who ever thought that Hogan would be pinned? With all this in mind, I say let the Warrior hold both titles. If anyone ever deserved it, he does."

Albert Taft, Vienna, VA: "In my eyes, Hulk Hogan will always be the champ, but of course I give Warrior his due. I think Hogan will regain the World title, but Warrior will be a great champion, too. Therefore, he should be allowed to keep both belts. That way, if Hulk beats him, then *he'll* have two belts, and that's really what I want." □

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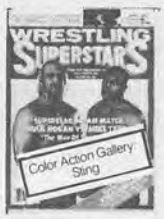

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WE ACCUSE

(Continued from page 16)

If Earthquake doesn't stop punishing his opponents with his "aftershocks," he may start having his victories taken away by disqualification.

fore WrestleMania VI, at New York's Madison Square Garden. During a match between Bravo and Brutus Beefcake, Beefcake put Bravo in a sleeperhold. Earthquake, standing at ringside for Bravo, pulled Brutus out of the ring while he had the hold applied and rammed him into the ringpost. Beefcake was unable to get back in, so Bravo was awarded the victory by countout.

Not only is Earthquake looking out for himself, but he's regularly helping Bravo win. This means he's good at taking orders, but it also means that, somewhere down the road, he'll be wanting Bravo to do *him* some favors. It's an unholy alliance, but one that so far has worked to their mutual advantage.

If threats don't stop Earthquake, maybe Hulk Hogan will. The recently dethroned champion is slated for a series of matches against Earthquake. Eager to lessen the pain of his shocking loss to The Ultimate Warrior at WrestleMania, the "Hulkster" is channeling all his anger and frustration into his bouts with the giant Canadian. It's Earthquake's toughest challenge by far.

"And what makes it even tougher for Earthquake is the fact that Hogan isn't the champion anymore," said an associate of Hart's. "When 'Quake signed for those matches, Hogan had the belt. Even if he beats Hogan, what will it mean? Will he get shots at the Warrior, or be left out in the cold? Watch out if he's overlooked; he'll become even more vicious."

A more vicious Earthquake is a frightening prospect indeed.

"This is what I'd tell Earthquake if he'd listen to me," Hart's associate said. "First, he should forget about winning any title right now and look for matches against top-ranked veterans like Beefcake, Jake Roberts, and Dusty Rhodes, for example. In my opinion, he'd have no problem with any of those three. That would give him seasoning for a title shot, instead of trying to become the federation's top gun right off the bat. Look at Ultimate Warrior: He worked his way up the WWF ranks slowly.

"But *before* 'Quake gets those bouts," the associate continued, "he's going to have to lay off the 'aftershocks.' You don't get any extra points for beating up on an opponent after the match. He's smart enough to know that; he just doesn't care. That's what's so frustrating. All he's doing is antagonizing the folks who can help him get the right matches."

Earthquake would do well to heed this man's advice. The behemoth is definitely good enough to win without utilizing excessive violence. Some have called him a young Andre the Giant. Perhaps someday, like Andre did at WrestleMania VI, Earthquake will reject rulebreaking. Until then, our accusations stand. □

(Continued from page 10)

Ultimate Warrior and Sting were once Rock and Flash of The Blade Runners. Sting says he's happy for his former partner's success.

big and powerful and he knows how to use his strength. That's very important.

"One thing, though, and this is important to remember: He's always been an independent thinker. But now that he's champion, those WWF bosses are gonna be telling him what to do. Let's see how he deals with that."

Harley Race. The six-time former NWA World champion abandoned his quest for the Intercontinental title when he realized that the Warrior was nearly unbeatable.

"This was bound to happen," Race said. "First of all, Hogan wasn't going to go on forever. Personally, I think Hogan is through as a champion. Second, the Warrior was just so determined. He's not the kind of wrestler that's easily stopped.

"Put it this way," Race continued. "Fate is fate. Hogan was a victim of fate. The Warrior was the benefactor. Hey, I lost the NWA World title six times, and in my prime I was a helluva lot better wrestler than Hogan is now. Losing is a part of this sport. Hogan never was invincible, never will be. And I think the Warrior might have this title for a long time."

It's interesting how so many people were hesitant to give the Warrior much credit for being a good wrestler. Apparently, many people in this sport don't want to acknowledge that power often wins out over science. It's an unfortunate, but true, part of the sport.

Harley Race knows what it's like to wrestle Warrior, but he says Warrior's victory can be chalked up to fate.

Lou Thesz. Surprisingly, Thesz was one of the few people to give the Warrior credit for his win. I say that's surprising, because Thesz is one of the greatest scientific wrestlers of all time.

"Times change, the sport changes," Thesz said. "When I was wrestling, a guy like the Warrior wouldn't have stood a chance, but that doesn't make him bad. It's just not the way things were done back then. Right now, power is wrestling, and the Warrior is more powerful than everyone else.

"The sport goes through stages," Thesz added. "It's evolutionary. Hogan started the change, the Warrior took it one step further. Let's face it, the only reason the Warrior wasn't champion a long time ago is because he never got the chance to wrestle Hogan. Hey, how about this: How many wrestlers are one-for-one against the 'Hulkster'?"

Undoubtedly, the Warrior's perfect record will be severely tested over the next year. Rumors about Hogan's movie and TV career notwithstanding, it's hard to believe that Hogan will sit back and let the Warrior reign unchallenged.

Hogan vs. Warrior was more than a battle of superhumans; it was a battle of superegos. Sure, Hogan handed the belt to the Warrior, but pride will eventually take over.

Hogan and the Warrior both thirst to be the best. That's why it can't be surprising when either one of them is on top of the wrestling world.

They were born to be there. They just can't be there together. □

SULLIVAN VS. NORMAN

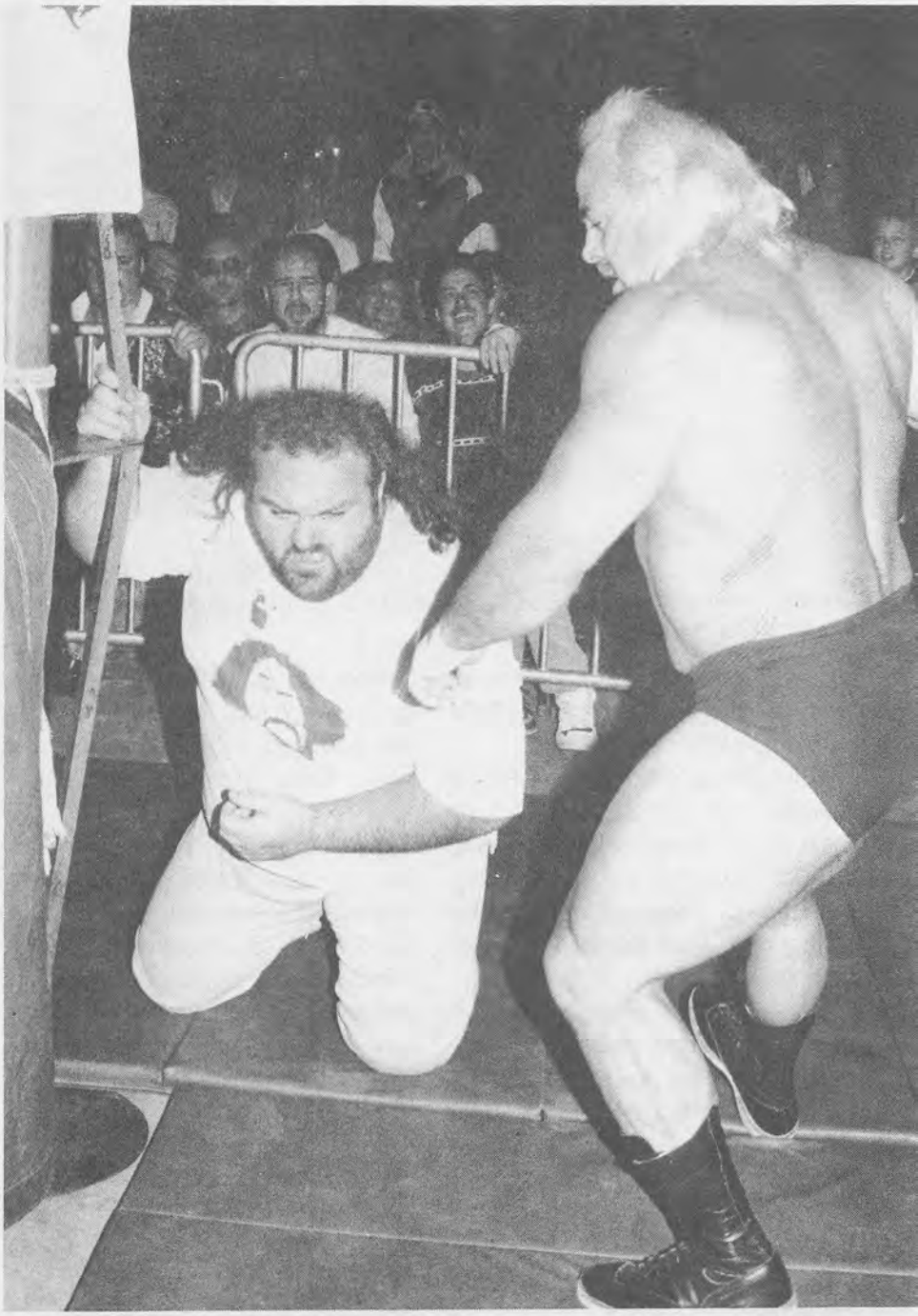
(Continued from page 39)

man's got twice the strength and wrestling ability of Sullivan. Sullivan should try messing around with people he can beat, although I'm not so sure there are any of those people left in this sport!"

Rotundo is particularly bitter at Sullivan. He, of course, used to be a member of Sullivan's faltering Varsity Club, but that relationship has clearly disintegrated. Recently, Rotundo found himself double-teamed by Jack and Sullivan. When that happened, Norman came to his rescue.

"I'll never forget what Norman did," Rotundo said. "He's really a good man, not a bad bone in his body, and that's another reason why I want to get back at Sullivan."

Norman has his own reasons for feuding with Sullivan.



Norman won't let Sullivan intimidate him. Scott Steiner believes that Norman should just forget his feud with Sullivan altogether and go after a title instead.

"He made fun of me," Norman whined. "He broke my camera, he destroyed my picture, he keeps saying bad things about me, and I just don't like it. You know, I think I'll kick his little bootie from here to Charleston, and if he doesn't realize he's taking a beating, I'll kick it again."

Sullivan must realize that he's been on the short end of this feud; he just doesn't want to admit it.

"Get beaten by a maniac like Norman?" Sullivan said. "Forget it! How can *I* lose to somebody like *Norman.* First of all, he can't get by without a manager to wipe his nose and tell him what to do.

Once Teddy Long left him, it was all over. Second of all, Norman's fat and out of shape. Kevin Sullivan doesn't lose to fat, out-of-shape wrestlers."

"I'll admit that Norman's had the edge in this feud," Cornette said, "but it's only because of the surprise factor. How do you wrestle a lunatic? You can't. It takes some adjustment. Once Sullivan makes that adjustment, it's all over for Norman. And I'll guarantee you, Norman can't make any adjustments. He's too stupid."

Meanwhile, the list of Norman victories over Sullivan grows longer.

"It's really time for Norman to move on to bigger and better things," Scott Steiner said. "He's already taken care of Sullivan, he's above him in the ratings, maybe it's time for him to go after the U.S. title or the World title. Yeah, he'd probably lose, but he has nothing to gain in this stupid feud with Sullivan."

"I think Norman wants to help me take care of Cactus Jack and Sullivan, then he'll worry about his next step," Rotundo said. "I agree, though, that Norman needs a title to get the respect he deserves."

That respect, though, won't soon come from Kevin Sullivan. He is out to humiliate Norman. Having already been embarrassed by this so-called lunatic, Sullivan realizes that his very reputation depends on ultimately overcoming Norman, even if it means attempting to make his current losses look like wins.

"He's trying to make a fool out of me, but it's not working," Sullivan insisted.

To the contrary, Norman has used Sullivan to further his career.

Imagine that: Sullivan, who has used so many people in this sport over the years, is getting used by a man he calls stupid.

Think twice, Jim Cornette. Be honest, Kevin Sullivan: Who's stupid now? □

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Wrestling

Mr. Saito

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1. **RIC FLAIR**
   243, Minneapolis, MN
   NWA World champion
2. **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
   280, Queens, NY
   WWF World & I-C champion
3. **HULK HOGAN**
   302, Venice Beach, CA
   No. 1 contender: WWF title
4. **LEX LUGER**
   268, Chicago, IL
   U.S. heavyweight champion
5. **JERRY LAWLER**
   234, Memphis, TN
   USWA champion
6. **DUSTY RHODES**
   302, Austin, TX
   No. 2 contender: WWF title
7. **MR. SAITO**
   247, Tokyo, Japan
   AWA World champion
8. **RANDY SAVAGE**
   245, Sarasota, FL
   No. 3 contender WWF title
9. **KERRY VON ERICH**
   260, Denton, TX
   USWA Texas champion
10. **LARRY ZBYSZKO**
    248, Pittsburgh, PA
    No. 1 contender: AWA title

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2. **DEMOLITION**
   Combined weight: 585 pounds
   WWF World tag team champions
3. **THE ROAD WARRIORS**
   Combined weight: 567 pounds
   No. 3 contenders: NWA tag team title
4. **BRIAN PILLMAN & TOM ZENK**
   Combined weight: 463 pounds
   U.S. tag team champions
5. **THE HART FOUNDATION**
   Combined weight: 515 pounds
   No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title
6. **THE ROCKERS**
   Combined weight: 450 pounds
   No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title
7. **MINNESOTA WRECKING CREW II**
   Combined weight: 520 pounds
   No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title
8. **DOOM**
   Combined weight: 565 pounds
   No. 2 contenders: NWA tag team title
9. **MIKE ENOS & WAYNE BLOOM**
   Combined weight: 518 pounds
   AWA World tag team champions
10. **REX KING & STEVE DOLL**
    Combined weight: 477 pounds
    USWA tag team champions

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

1. **LEX LUGER** *268, Chicago, IL*
2. **NORMAN** *380, Saginaw, MI*
3. **KEVIN SULLIVAN** *252, Boston, MA*
4. **MIKE ROTUNDO** *245, Syracuse, NY*
5. **TOMMY RICH** *248, Hendersonville, TN*
6. **JOHNNY ACE** *250, San Bernadino, CA*
7. **CACTUS JACK** *247, Truth or Consequences, NM*
8. **EDDIE GILBERT** *222, Lexington, TN*
9. **ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER** *360, Khartoum, Sudan*
10. **ROBERT GIBSON** *225, Pensacola, FL*

WWF

World Champion:
THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR
280, Queens, NY

1. **HULK HOGAN** *302, Venice Beach, CA*
2. **DUSTY RHODES** *302, Austin, TX*
3. **RANDY SAVAGE** *245, Sarasota, FL*
4. **EARTHQUAKE** *462, Montreal, Quebec*
5. **BRUTUS BEEFCAKE** *273, San Francisco, CA*
6. **CURT HENNIG** *235, Minneapolis, MN*
7. **TED DiBIASE** *247, Omaha, NE*
8. **RODDY PIPER** *231, Glasgow, Scotland*
9. **BIG BOSSMAN** *348, Cobb County, GA*
10. **RICK MARTEL** *236, Quebec City, Quebec*

AWA

World Champion:
MR. SAITO
247, Tokyo, Japan

1. **LARRY ZBYSZKO** *248, Pittsburgh, PA*
2. **SGT. SLAUGHTER** *310, Parris Island, SC*
3. **D.J. PETERSON** *245, St. Joseph, MO*
4. **TULLY BLANCHARD** *235, San Antonio, TX*
5. **KOKINA MAXIMUS** *340, Samoa*
6. **NIKITA KOLOFF** *275, Moscow, Russia*
7. **COL. DeBEERS** *248, Cape Town, S. Africa*
8. **TOMMY JAMMER** *265, St. Joseph, MO*
9. **PAUL DIAMOND** *230, Thunder Bay, Ontario*
10. **THE RUSSIAN BRUTE** *330, Moscow, Russia*

USWA/CWA

USWA Champion:
JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN

1. **KERRY VON ERICH** *260, Denton, TX*
2. **BILL DUNDEE** *214, Melbourne, Australia*
3. **JIMMY VALIANT** *251, New York, NY*
4. **JEFF JARRETT** *200, Hendersonville, TN*
5. **BILLY TRAVIS** *218, Houston, TX*
6. **KEVIN VON ERICH** *235, Denton, TX*
7. **JOHN TATUM** *236, Hollywood, CA*
8. **CHRIS CHAMPION** *222, Tampa, FL*
9. **ICEMAN PARSONS** *245, St. Louis, MO*
10. **DUSTIN RHODES** *254, Austin, TX*

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

For period ended April 5, 1990

MOST POPULAR

1. **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
   280, Queens, NY
   Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
2. **HULK HOGAN**
   302, Venice Beach, CA
   Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
3. **LEX LUGER**
   268, Venice Beach, CA
   Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
4. **DUSTY RHODES**
   302, Austin, TX
   Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
5. **STING**
   260, Venice Beach, CA
   Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
6. **NORMAN**
   380, Saginaw, MI
   Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
7. **BIG BOSSMAN**
   348, Cobb County, GA
   Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
8. **RODDY PIPER**
   231, Glasgow, Scotland
   Last month: No. 8 Most Popular
9. **KERRY VON ERICH**
   260, Denton, TX
   Last month: unrated
10. **ANDRE THE GIANT**
    497, Grenoble, France
    Last month: unrated

MOST HATED

1. **RIC FLAIR**
   243, Minneapolis, MN
   Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
2. **RANDY SAVAGE**
   245, Sarasota, FL
   Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
3. **JERRY LAWLER**
   234, Memphis, TN
   Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
4. **EARTHQUAKE**
   462, Montreal, Quebec
   Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
5. **CURT HENNIG**
   235, Minneapolis, MN
   Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
6. **TED DiBIASE**
   247, Omaha, NE
   Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
7. **KEVIN SULLIVAN**
   252, Boston, MA
   Last month: unrated
8. **RICK MARTEL**
   236, Quebec City, Quebec
   Last month: unrated
9. **LANNY POFFO**
   228, Downer's Grove, IL
   Last month: No. 8 Most Hated
10. **TONY ATLAS**
    247, Roanoke, VA
    Last month: No. 9 Most Hated

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1—HULK HOGAN ..... 95 points
2—RIC FLAIR ..... 85 points
3—LEX LUGER ..... 74 points
4—ULTIMATE WARRIOR ..... 62 points
5—STING ..... 43 points

TAG TEAMS

1—DEMOLITION ..... 83 points
2—THE ROAD WARRIORS ..... 80 points
3—RICK & SCOTT STEINER ..... 56 points
4—MICHAEL HAYES & JIM GARVIN ..... 48 points
5—MIDNIGHT EXPRESS ..... 36 points

PNW

PNW Champion:
TITLE HELD UP
(see "The Tattler")

1. **CURTIS THOMPSON**
   245, Charlotte, NC
2. **SCOTTY THE BODY**
   235, Short Hills, NJ
3. **RICKY SANTANA**
   235, Orlando, FL
4. **ART BARR**
   230, Portland, OR
5. **AL MADRIL**
   231, Los Angeles, CA
6. **JEFF WARNER**
   267, Philadelphia, PA
7. **THE GRAPPLER**
   280, parts unknown
8. **BRYAN ADAMS**
   310, Honolulu, HI
9. **BILL FRANCIS**
   300, Dallas, OR
10. **THE EQUALIZER**
    250, parts unknown

ICW

ICW Champion:
TONY ATLAS
247, Roanoke, VA

1. **ROCHESTER ROADBLOCK**
   392, Rochester, NY
2. **VIC STEAMBOAT**
   235, Honolulu, HI
3. **MR. ONITA**
   237, Tokyo, Japan
4. **PHIL APOLLO**
   220, Dallas, TX
5. **ERIC SBRACCHIA**
   240, Boston, MA
6. **MIKE KALUHA**
   239, Honolulu, HI
7. **TOM BRANDI**
   231, Philadelphia, PA
8. **TOM PRICHARD**
   220, Houston, TX
9. **TASMANIAN DEVIL**
   221, Tasmania
10. **RAY ODYSSEY**
    205, Palm Beach, FL

GEORGIA: **Georgia All-Star champion**—title vacant; **1**—Mike Golden; **2**—Powerhouse Busich; **3**—Mr. Wrestling II; **4**—Al Knitty; **5**—Randy Rose; **6**—Joel Deaton; **7**—Thunder; **8**—Shotgun Gauge; **9**—Ted Allen; **10**—Big Daddy.

LPWA: **LPWA champion**—Susan Sexton; **1**—The Beast; **2**—Magnificent Mimi; **3**—Madusa Miceli; **4**—The Goddess; **5**—Rusty Thomas; **6**—Bambi; **7**—Shelly Francis; **8**—Miss Linda; **9**—Meliah Hosaka; **10**—Jan Flame.

PWA: **PWA champion**—Charlie Norris; **1**—Beef Burton; **2**—Ricky Rice; **3**—Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie; **4**—Derrick Dukes; **5**—Tim Hunt; **6**—Slick Steiner; **7**—Johnny Love; **8**—Lightning Kid; **9**—Matt Derringer; **10**—Jerry Lynn.

PWF: **PWF champion**—Steve Keirn; **1**—Buddy Landell; **2**—Eric Embry; **3**—The Terminator; **4**—Bounty Hunter I; **5**—Brickhouse Brown; **6**—Hurricane Walker; **7**—Jim Backlund; **8**—Robert Fuller; **9**—Lou Perez; **10**—Powerhouse Parker.

WWC: **WWC champion**—Carlos Colon; **1**—TNT; **2**—Manny Fernandez; **3**—Harley Race; **4**—Abdullah the Butcher; **5**—Invader I; **6**—Leo Burke; **7**—Miguel Perez Jr.; **8**—Rick Valentine; **9**—Dragon Master; **10**—Joe Savoldi.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating nearly 200 wrestlers in 17 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Hogan plummets while Warrior soars. Former WWF World champion **Hulk Hogan** drops from number one to number three in our Top 10 as the result of **The Ultimate Warrior's** WWF World title victory at WrestleMania VI. Meanwhile, NWA World champion **Ric Flair** edges into the top spot (look for the battle for number one to be fierce in the coming months), while Warrior moves up to number two.

Jerry Lawler

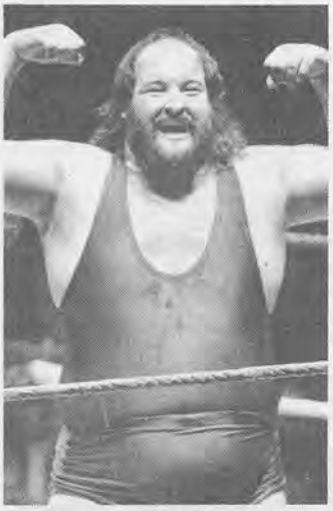
Tracking Trends. Aside from the changes resulting from the Warrior's victory over Hogan, there are plenty of changes in our Top 10 and Tag Teams ratings.

TOP 10: **Lex Luger** stays at number four, **Jerry Lawler** holds firm at five, and **Randy Savage** and **Kerry Von Erich** stick tight in the eight-nine positions . . . AWA World champion **Mr. Saito** drops a notch to number seven; he hasn't been defending his belt at all since defeating number-one contender **Larry Zbyszko**, who returns to the ratings at number 10 . . . **Curtis Thompson** is out.

TAG TEAMS: **Demolition's** WWF World title victory over **Andre the Giant** & **Haku** moves them up to number two; Andre & Haku, probably never to team again, are out . . . **Rick** & **Scott Steiner** maintain their strong hold on the number-one position . . . **The Road Warriors** slip a notch to three . . . **Brian Pillman** & **Tom Zenk** continue to dominate U.S. tag title opposition; they move up one spot to four . . . Also up a notch: **The Hart Foundation** (to five) and **Mike Enos** & **Wayne bloom** (to nine) . . . Down a notch since last month: **Doom** (to eight) and **Rex King** & **Steve Doll** (to 10) . . . **The Minnesota Wrecking Crew II** debuts at number seven.

Earthquake tremors. The big man hasn't been in the WWF for very long, but readers seem to be quite shook up about the emergence of **Earthquake**. The 462-pound Canadian, who is managed by **Jimmy Hart**, made a thunderous debut in the Most Hated ratings this issue at number four.

"This is the most brutal competitor I've seen in the WWF in a long, long time," wrote Eddie Buchanan of Schenectady, New York. "I can't stand the way he attacks people after **Dino Bravo's** matches. What gives him the right to jump on people's chests the way he does? He's already seriously injured **Ronnie Garvin**, one of my favorites. If he's allowed to continue, there's no telling how many people could be hurt."



Earthquake

Surprisingly, not everyone dislikes the rotund contender: "This big guy is the greatest find since **Andre the Giant**," wrote Billy Capuano of Boston. "I've never seen a hulk like that move around the ring with such dexterity before. And he's got a great deal of stamina, too. He's already beaten **Hacksaw Duggan** in a match that lasted more than 15 minutes. If you ask me, there's nobody in the WWF capable of beating Earthquake. He's just too big and too powerful."

The majority of our mail, however, agrees that Earthquake is far too brutal. "I've got two young children, and I don't like them watching this kind of violence," wrote Mrs. Anthony Gilbracken of Aiken, South Carolina. "Too many people are leaving the arenas on stretchers. I just can't believe that [WWF President] **Jack Tunney** has allowed Earthquake to tear apart as many men as he has."

Sounds like Earthquake's Most Hated debut is just the beginning of a long stay in that ratings category.

Want to gripe about the ratings? Even if you want to say something nice about the ratings, we'll read your mail. We welcome all kinds of ratings-related questions, complaints, and observations. Address your correspondence to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *Sports Review Wrestling*, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □

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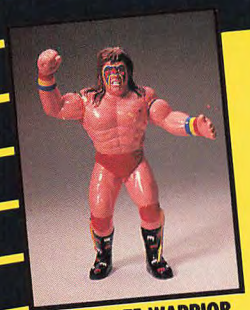
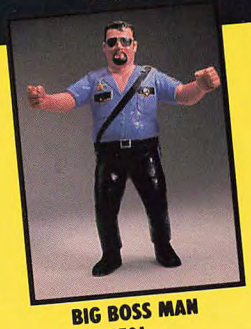


ULTIMATE WARRIOR
ULT-5702



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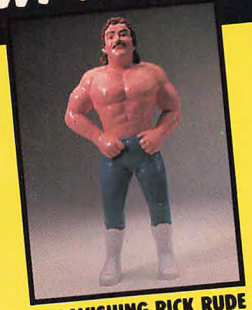
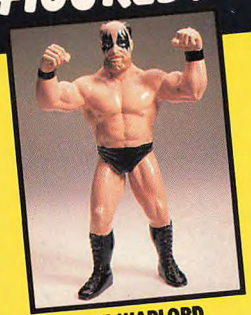
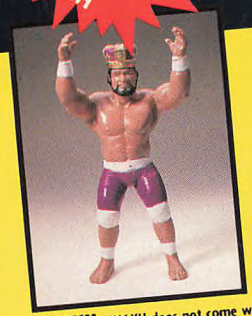
BOS-5701



RAVISHING RICK RUDE
RUD-5702



THE WARLORD
WAR-5705



HAKU (HAKU does not come with crown as illustrated) HAK-5707

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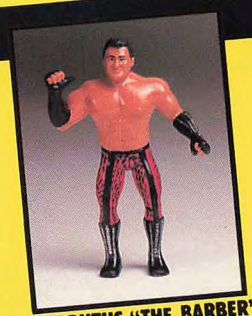
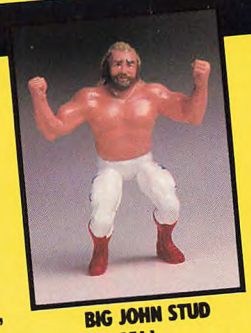
AND-5703



BRUTUS "THE BARBER" BEEFCAKE BRU-5710



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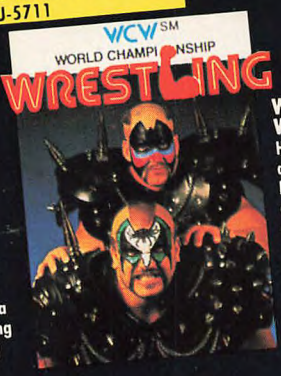

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